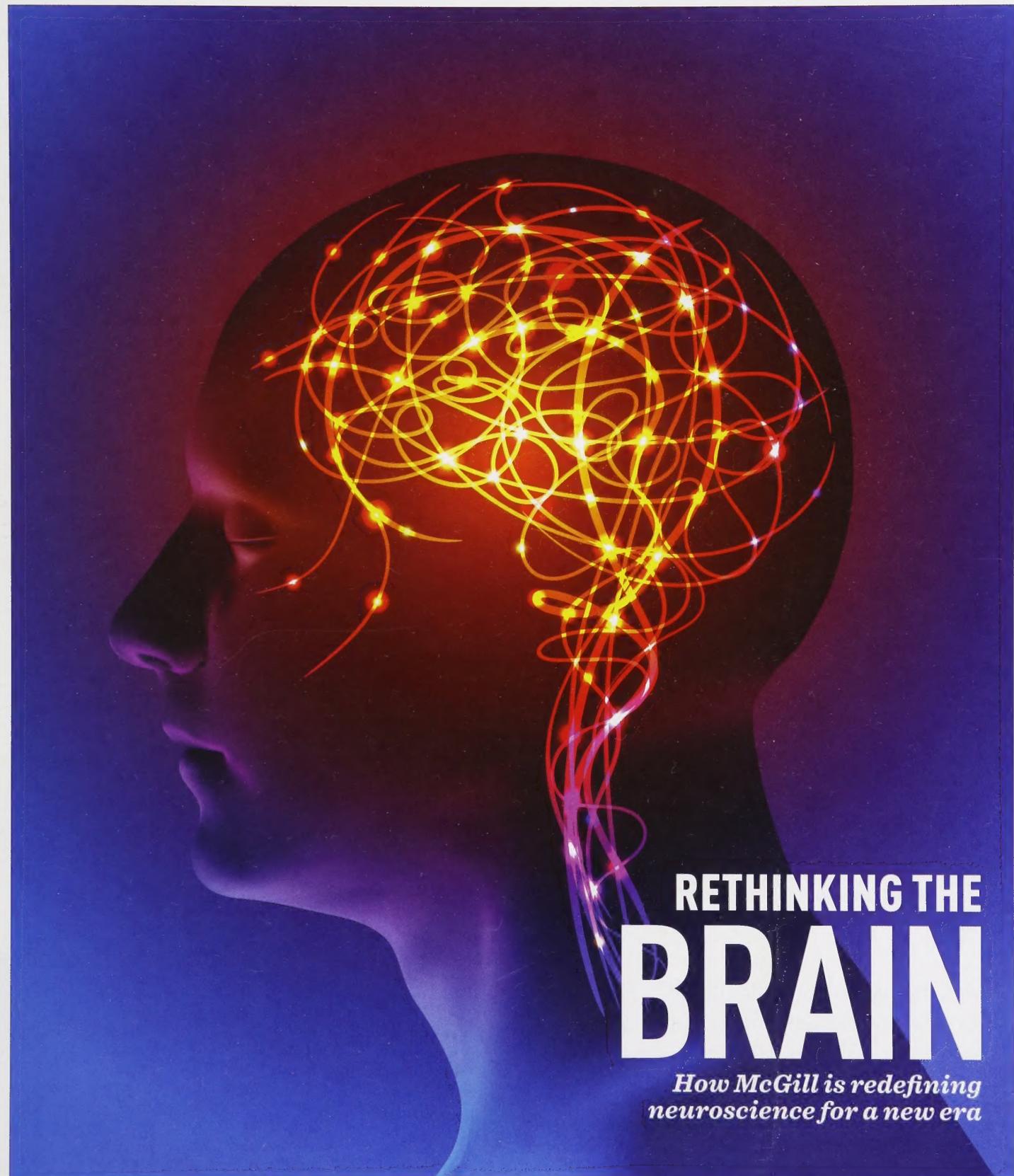


McGill News

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER
2016/17



RETHINKING THE **BRAIN**

*How McGill is redefining
neuroscience for a new era*

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REBOOTING BRAIN SCIENCE

After concluding that neuroscience research isn't resulting in new treatments quickly enough, McGill is introducing some groundbreaking initiatives that just might change the way scientists around the world approach the brain.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

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FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH

More than a quarter of McGill students come from other countries and the University wouldn't be the same without them. The Quebec government is hoping to convince more of them to stay in the province after they graduate.

BY KATE SHERIDAN, BA&SC'14

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THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Three of the world's top universities recently selected McGill alumni as their new leaders. Here's what Stephen Toope, BCL'83, LLB'83, Santa Ono, PhD'91, and Marc Tessier-Lavigne, BSc'80, DSc'11, have to say about what life looks like from the president's office.

BY DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

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CARNETS DE VOYAGE

Tout comme son frère, premier ministre, Alexandre Trudeau est diplômé de McGill. Son souci de comprendre le monde s'est manifesté depuis dans les nombreux documentaires et reportages qu'il a tournés aux quatre coins du monde. Dans son premier livre, il trace le portrait d'une société en pleine transformation.

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OWEN EGAN

A COMMUNITY WITHOUT BORDERS

I have been a member of the McGill community, as either a student or a staffer, for more than 30 years. I have seen people here argue about all sorts of things. A lot of spirited debates have bubbled up and petered out. That happens at a university.

One thing that has never been the subject of serious dispute, though, is the way in which McGill reaches out to the world. We think it's a good thing—no, a great thing—that our students come from 147 countries. It's one of the qualities that make this University so distinct. Interacting with people who have had different experiences in life opens up your mind in a way that no textbook can.

One of the feature articles in this issue focuses on the role that international students play at McGill. It's more difficult to think of someone from another culture or another country as a vaguely threatening "other" when they're sitting next to you, laughing at the same cheesy jokes from your professor that you're laughing at. As one student quoted in our story puts it, "You get to meet the person and not the stereotype."

According to recent rankings from *Times Higher Education*, McGill is among the world's most international universities—we came in 23rd. The rankings look at the proportion of international students and staff at each institution and the number of internationally co-authored publications they produce. In Canada, only the University of British Columbia was ranked higher.

That's part of the reason why recent events south of the border seem so jarring. The recent executive order restricting entry into the U.S. by the citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries has been affecting all sorts of people from those places—human rights campaigners, refugees, Oscar nominees. Concerns have been raised by many. The Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce—which has never been described as a hotbed of knee-jerk left-wingers—described this as "the wrong approach."

The lives of countless students and academics from these seven countries were also affected—sometimes in very serious ways. McGill students and recent graduates were barred from attending conferences in the U.S. (vital for both their career prospects and for developing research partnerships) or working at U.S. institutions.

In a recent statement, Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, declared, "We are a community that embraces diversity, welcomes the best and the brightest from around the world and celebrates the freedom of our professors and our students to engage with their peers everywhere to study, pursue research and discover the things we need to improve our collective future."

McGill law students responded quickly to the ban, taking shifts at Montreal's Trudeau Airport, and providing information to affected travellers. The students also sparked a nation-wide "research-a-thon" effort focused on the rights of refugees. A U.S. federal judge's ruling has suspended the travel ban—at least temporarily.

Saeed Bohloul, an Iranian native pursuing his doctoral studies in physics at McGill, recently shared his thoughts about the ban with *The Gazette*. "This whole civilization is a collective thing, the contribution of all humanity," he said. "If you make this collective contribution harder and harder, I do not see a future for the world."

Thankfully, there are still places in the world that encourage those collective contributions.

McGill is one of them. 

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

A NEW ERA FOR BRAIN SCIENCE



CHRISTINE MUSCHI

2016 was a big year for brain science at McGill. The University's new Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (HBHL) program received \$84 million from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The Montreal Neurological Institute, with the support of a \$20 million gift from the Larry and Judy Tanenbaum family, launched its Tanenbaum Open Science Institute, a catalyst for the Neuro's daring open science initiatives. The *McGill News* recently spoke to **Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76**, about how McGill is reshaping the landscape for neuroscience.

What were the most important factors behind McGill's success in the CFREF competition?

Just to take part in the CFREF competition, you had to be able to prove that you were among the top five per cent in the world in your area of specialty. When it comes to research about the brain, we clearly meet that threshold. This has been a major area of strength for us for many, many years, starting with Wilder Penfield and the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1934. It is not only about hiring the best talent to come here, it is also about developing that talent ourselves. Our integrated program in neurosciences for graduate students is one of the largest training programs of its kind in North America.

We have so many talented researchers working in this area. At the MNI, of course, but also in the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, in our teaching hospitals, in our basic science departments, in engineering, in the social sciences – in so many places. To successfully apply for the CFREF funding, we needed to bring people from many different parts of McGill together as a team. When I was told that we would be receiving the funding, it felt like the Olympics to me. My team had just won the gold medal!

What are your hopes for the Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives initiative?

What I said to the [CFREF] committee members was that I expected our HBHL program to result in a minimum of six breakthrough discoveries. I believe that we will be able to make fundamental contributions that will help people keep their brains healthy. The focus is very much on coming up with treatments, and also policies and guidelines that will make a profound difference in the quality of peoples' lives.

There is still so much to discover about the brain, so much that we don't know. But I believe we are at a turning point. Thanks to new technologies and new approaches, like neuroinformatics, we have the capacity to bring together massive amounts of data and examine them in a more precise way. It is an exciting moment.

The Neuro has been making news on another front with its commitment to open science practices and the launch of the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute. What are your thoughts about that project?

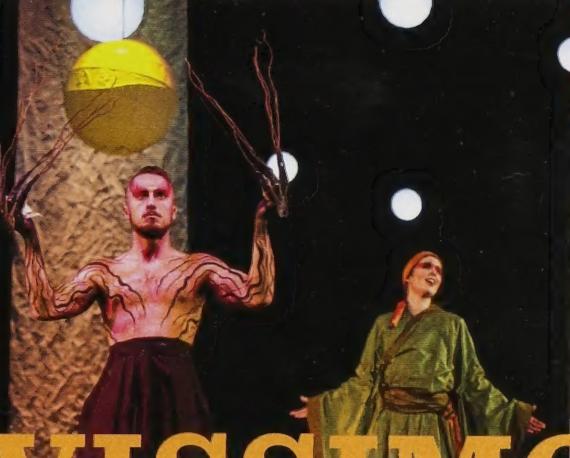
We are creating a new model of collaboration in neuroscience. The open science movement is gaining momentum, with big projects underway in the European Union, in Japan and the U.S. But the Neuro is bringing open science to a new level by making a commitment to share everything from brain imaging to tissue samples to the data associated with its experiments.

Neuroscience is a high-risk area. Not every project will work out. Different players, ranging from granting councils to pharmaceutical companies, have an interest in "de-risking" their investments. If research at the Neuro can point to a particular brain mechanism that seems to be connected to something very significant, and it is easy to gain access to that information, it can provide a spark that moves things along more quickly.

Even learning about the things that did not work out can be valuable. In science, you rarely hear about the studies that did not succeed. If the results did not confirm your hypothesis, they do not get published. But that information might still be important to someone – if only as a warning that this would not be a good path to spend your time and talent on.

The Neuro views this whole process as very much an experiment. If it succeeds, I think we can look at other branches of science and ask the question, 'What if all science worked this way?' Larry Tanenbaum and his family deserve our thanks, not just for their tremendous generosity, but also for their vision.

Our population is getting older and many brain disorders are related to aging. Neurodegenerative diseases are on the rise. With both open science and HBHL, we hope to accelerate the pace of discovery. 



BRENT CALIS

BRAVISSIMO!

Opera McGill celebrates its 60th

In 1955, an Italian tenor and a Romanian soprano arrived in Montreal with a mandate to introduce opera to McGill. That couple, Edith and Luciano Della Pergola, created the Opera McGill program, and nurtured it for more than three decades. They began with a minuscule budget and no formal performance space. "My parents were driven by their passion for opera and teaching," says Felicity Blatt, Edith and Luciano's daughter. "With endless dedication, they managed to produce with limited resources maximum results."

The program they built has flourished and is marking its 60th anniversary with a series of events that began last fall.

While university opera programs tend to focus heavily on productions, Opera McGill prioritizes the training of its students and the process of molding them into skilled performers. "This is a pedagogical program where students are trying to learn the craft and the artistry of opera," says Opera McGill's current director Patrick Hansen. "They are not brought in to the program to be used; instead, the program is about them." Former student Philippe Sly, BMus'11, who'll be performing at the Opéra de Paris in January, endorses McGill's approach. "I had to focus on my singing day to day," he says. "If I had spent that time focusing on the potential career and not the process, I would have gone insane."

Opera McGill has shaped a wealth of accomplished singers who have gone on to have remarkable careers, including contralto Mariana Paunova, tenor Benjamin Butterfield, LMus'95, mezzo-soprano Rihab Chaieb, BMus'10, bass-baritone Gordon Bitner, BMus'13, and soprano Tracy Cantin, ADip'12.

Remarkably, the program has only had three changes in leadership in six decades — Hansen succeeded Dixie Ross-Neill, who took over from Bernard Turgeon, who oversaw the program after the Della Pergolas. The anniversary celebrations mark a conscious effort on the part of Hansen — a self-proclaimed "history buff" — to illustrate the trajectory of the program from its start to the present. As such, the pieces selected for the season recognize Opera McGill milestones.

The first show, a revival of Hansen's 2008 staging of Handel's *Alcina*, performed in conjunction with the Schulich School of Music's Early Music Orchestra, fulfilled the program's tradition of staging a Baroque piece and was also a nod to Hansen's 10 years as Opera McGill's director.

The second major show of the season, Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, is the same piece selected by the Della Pergolas in 1986 for the program's 30th anniversary. Hansen's staging of this classic at the Monument-National included surprise cameos of Opera McGill alumni spanning from the Della Pergola years to the present.

The season will end in March on a contemporary note with the Lisl Wirth Black Box Opera Binge Festival, a series of opera performances staged in venues throughout Montreal. Similar to a "fringe" festival, the 24-hour Binge Festival will focus on alternative and experimental forms of opera using the decidedly 21st-century technique of binge-watching. The opera marathon will open with a staging of *Dido and Aeneas* in Redpath Hall and will conclude with a double bill at the Théâtre Paradoxe, with projected sets in lieu of traditional physical ones. The Binge Festival again speaks to the marriage between tradition — *Dido and Aeneas* was the first show ever put on by Opera McGill, Redpath its first performance space — and modernity.

"The art form is changing, moving, and evolving," says Hansen, which makes the blending of past and present forms especially pertinent. Blatt echoes this sentiment, commanding the program for adapting to the present while remaining true to opera's roots. "They're doing it beautifully."

KATIE MULLEN

↑ A scene from Opera McGill's fall production of Handel's *Alcina*

Gold star for sustainability

McGill's growing commitment to sustainability hasn't gone unnoticed. The University recently received a gold rating from the U.S.-based Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in recognition of McGill's many sustainability initiatives. And, with the creation of the **MCGILL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABILITY**, the number of those initiatives will likely increase in the years to come.

"We are at a critical juncture at McGill," says Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi. "Sustainability is a clear priority for members of our community and we intend to reflect those values." Manfredi co-chairs the new council along with Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) Yves Beauchamp. Other members include the deans of the Faculties of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Law and Science.

The council will provide guidance on sustainability challenges from both an academic and operations perspective and will report to the principal. It will also offer strategic advice for McGill's Climate & Sustainability Action Plan.

As for the AASHE and its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), McGill ranks among the top sustainability performers in Canada. The University's Sustainability Projects Fund, funded by both McGill and its students, is the largest program of its kind in North America. McGill has become a pioneer of sustainable food sourcing, purchasing more than 20,000 kilos of produce, 3,400 kilos of beef and 180,000 eggs a year from the Macdonald Campus Farm to serve in its dining halls. And the University continues to introduce new academic initiatives, like its award-winning Managing for Sustainability Major and Concentration programs, a partnership involving the Desautels Faculty of Management, the McGill School of Environment and the Department of Geography.

WITH FILES FROM TOBY DAVINE, BA'11



↑ Much of the food served in McGill's dining halls is produced locally at the Macdonald Campus Farm



QUEEN of the COURTS

In 1952, **ROSEMARIE ASCH**, BSc'51, represented Canada in alpine skiing at the Oslo Olympics. Sixty-four years later, her international athletic career is going strong.

Asch recently took part in the Super-Seniors 85-and-over category during the International Tennis Federation championships held in Croatia, successfully defending her status as the reigning women's champ in singles tennis. She came in second in mixed doubles and third in women's doubles. Last year, she won all three titles.

Asch has been a force to be reckoned with on the seniors tennis circuit for years now. She won her first world championship in 2010 and is currently ranked first in the world with her partner in the doubles category.

Asch played tennis as a kid, but winter sports — skating, then skiing — were more her thing. "There was a rink on every corner when I was kid. What else do you do in wintertime?"

After raising four sporty kids, Asch gave tennis another try and began taking lessons to undo the bad habits formed during her youth.

"I eat well, about 90 percent very well," the nearly vegetarian Asch says, and she avidly reads about health research when not relaxing with mysteries or the latest from either Margaret Atwood or Amor Towles. "And I try not to get too stressed out about anything — even tennis tournaments."

MAEVE HALDANE



SARAH MONGEAU-BIRKETT

TWO MORE FOR THE RHODES

McGill's newest Rhodes Scholars have ambitious plans for their time at Oxford.

ANGELA YU, BSc'15, a scholar-elect from the Maritimes and a graduate student in biology, is interested in how social values influence the development of science, technology and medicine. It is important, she says, to have researchers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and medicine) who are socially engaged.

"The way we use science and technology often perpetuates existing systems."

Mechanical engineering student **AARON GLUCK-THALER**, a scholar-elect from Quebec, is passionate about

cyber security, surveillance and privacy issues. He worries about the unregulated global trade in surveillance technology, which often involves the world's most repressive regimes.

"If the Rhodes is one thing," Gluck-Thaler says, "it's an amazing platform to do work in the public interest."

Yu, who serves as equity and diversity commissioner for McGill's Post Graduate Students' Society, played a leading role in the development of McGill's new sexual violence policy.

Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity) Angela Campbell, BA'95, BCL'99, LLB'99, who worked with Yu in developing the policy, is full of praise.

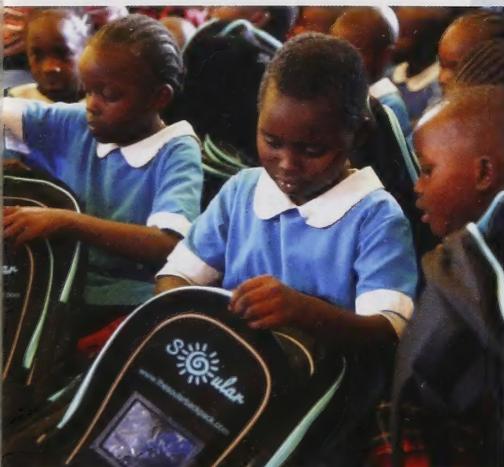
"Angela represents the best of McGill. She's not only incredibly bright, but also committed to making the world around her a better place for all."

A former president of Hillel Montreal, Gluck-Thaler enjoys "building all sorts of machines." One of these, a 3-D printer that can produce low-cost medical supplies like stethoscopes and prosthetics, won a nationwide competition.

Gabriella Coleman, McGill's Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy, expressed her delight on Twitter about her former research assistant snagging a coveted Rhodes. "[Aaron] has done great work fighting surveillance in Canada."

DOUG SWEET

Lighting a path to a better education



SALIMA VISRAM, BA'15, has harnessed the power of the sun to improve children's lives. Now, a bit of star power may help her make even more of an impact.

Visram's initiative, the Soular Backpack, recently received a boost from Oscar-winning Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o, whose involvement in the project helped attract the attention of *Vogue* and ABC News.

In Nyong'o's latest movie, *Queen of Katwe*, she plays the mother of a Ugandan chess prodigy and the problem that Visram's backpack could solve has a prominent role in the film: not every child has access to electricity. Instead, if a child wants to read a book about chess — or anything else — after sundown, their families have to spend money on expensive kerosene fuel for lamps.

Visram's Soular Backpacks have a solar panel that can charge a light as children walk to and from school during the day. That light can replace the kerosene lamps at night. A quote from Nyong'o is now on every new backpack: "The power is in your step."

Children who use the backpacks study around five hours longer than they could otherwise. Their grades — and their health — are also improving. (Kerosene fumes can contribute to headaches and coughs, says Visram.)

In September, Visram partnered with the Home Shopping Network to launch a new buy-one-give-one program. For each non-solar-powered backpack Visram sells on her website, thesoularbackpack.com, she can send one solar-powered backpack to a child who needs it.

Visram developed the concept at McGill as an independent study project. "I'd like to take the backpack global and turn it into a leading lifestyle brand," she says, "one that generates real social impact."

KATE SHERIDAN, BA&Sc'14

Experiencing CONSTRUCTION in a whole new way

Few words are more likely to cause a Montrealer to grind her teeth than "construction." The mess. The disruption. The detours.

The award-winning architectural firm **KANVA** believes it has a plan that won't just alleviate some of the hassles associated with major construction projects, it will help city residents see them in a new light.

"Construction is a performance; it's spectacular. What we're celebrating is the performance of the roadwork happening in this city and embracing it as a necessary — even a desirable — part of urban life," says **RAMI BEBAWI**, BSc(Arch)'99, MArch'01, who co-founded the firm with his KANVA partner **TUDOR RADULESCU**, BSc(Arch)'98, MArch'01.

The specific construction project that Bebawi has in mind will begin in 2018 on Montreal's major downtown artery — St. Catherine Street. The city's desire to hide the "dirty work" involved in replacing antiquated water and sewer pipes has opened the door for KANVA to offer a unique solution — IMAGO, a gigantic inflatable tunnel with transparent windowpanes crisscrossed by bulging marshmallow frames, crawling caterpillar-like along the street.



The organically inspired structure is designed to facilitate foot traffic while encasing — and virtually showcasing — the everyday industry of construction. IMAGO is estimated to cost \$3.8 million, but Bebawi believes that every dollar spent is likely to save \$1.50. He points to recent work on Prince Arthur Street, which resulted in a sharp loss of business for stores in the area.

KANVA received the green light in September to make IMAGO a reality. Bebawi believes IMAGO could become an attraction in its own right. "Our intention is to give magic to the city."

JENNIFER NAULT

↑ St. Catherine Street will have a very different look to it in 2018, thanks, in large part, to the architectural firm KANVA's inflatable tunnel IMAGO



A medical professor who championed music

The first edition of the **GRAHAM SOMMER COMPETITION FOR YOUNG COMPOSERS** will begin in 2017 — to coincide with Canada's 150th anniversary, and Montreal's 375th — and will be open to Canadian composers under the age of 35.

"The Schulich School of Music is grateful to Dr. Sommer for having chosen McGill and Montreal as the home for this extraordinary initiative," says Julie Cumming, the School's interim dean.

A jury of composers, musicians, and concert goers will select five finalists whose works will be performed at a gala concert which will be available over streaming video for anyone in the world who wants to tune in. The finalists will all receive cash prizes, as well as additional support and publicity.

This wouldn't be the first time that Sommer supported music at McGill. The Dr. Graham Sommer Piano Fund, established in 2008, allowed McGill to buy new acoustic and electric pianos for residence halls and ensures that the pianos are well-maintained. His gift also funded the restoration of a piano in New Residence Hall and an 1887 Steinway concert grand piano that resides in Royal Victoria College.

"Having lived at RVC from 2004 to 2015 as hall director, I can attest to the use and appreciation of the pianos," says Janice Johnson, BA'91, managing director of Residence Life and Customer Relations. "I have had conversations about Bach as the ultimate study drug and how practicing 'just like at home' eases homesickness."

KATE SHERIDAN, BA&Sc'14

► The late **GRAHAM SOMMER**, MDCM '72, used to jokingly call himself a "Renaissance radiologist" for the wide range of his research interests, but the description was apt in more ways than one.

The highly regarded Stanford medical professor had a lifelong love of music, fostered by his own accomplishments as a classical pianist, composer and semi-professional performer — and perhaps most eloquently expressed through a \$1 million pledge to launch a biennial competition for young Canadian composers at McGill.

A TOUCHDOWN FOR GENDER EQUALITY

SAMANTHA RAPORT, BEd'04, has a message to deliver, one that some might find a little surprising — maybe even shocking.

The National Football League is a great place for a woman to work.

She should know. She worked there for eight years, starting off as an intern, and eventually becoming the coordinator for the NFL's youth football program. She earned the NFL Commissioner's Innovation Award for her efforts.

She left for a six-year stint at USA Football, during which she created the Women's World Football Games, a skills development event that attracts female players from across the globe. Earlier this year, she was lured back to the NFL and given a very specific mission — to spread the word that the league wants to hire more women.

"I believe the NFL is a great place for women. All the managers and owners I've met are so open to gender diversity," says Rapoport, the league's director of football development. Women comprise 30 per cent of the staff at the NFL's central office in New York City, but only a handful currently hold coaching or scouting positions for NFL teams.

"At the NFL, we understand that there's an abundance of talent out there, and we're identifying the need to look at 100 per cent of the population instead of just 50 per cent of the population," Rapoport says.

There is currently one woman with a full-time coaching position in the NFL, plus a couple who have part-time assistant coaching jobs. Each of the 32 NFL teams has 10 to 15 coaches. That's plenty of positions to fill.

↗ Samantha Rapoport is the NFL's director of football development



NFL

As for the notion that women aren't interested in football, Rapoport says there's plenty of evidence that that's not true. More than 50 million women watched the last Super Bowl, for instance.

"My role is to create programming to show [women] that the pipeline is open to them," Rapoport told ESPN when she was first announced in her new role. There are currently between 2,000 and 3,000 female tackle football players in the U.S. "That's a lot of talent to draw from," says Rapoport.

Although it helps to have actually played football, it's not an absolute prerequisite to working for a NFL team, says Rapoport. "There are already coaches who haven't played," she says. The most important trait is a passion for the game. "If you have an education background, or know how to relay information, you're a qualified candidate." There could even be situations where having a woman on the coaching staff offers a distinct advantage. "Some players, maybe, grew up with [only a mother], or with sisters, [and] they may relate to women better."

Despite being raised in Ottawa, Rapoport hates the cold and has never held a hockey stick. She devoured Sunday football games on TV alongside her dad, and one day noticed an ad in the *Ottawa Citizen* for tryouts for girl football players — and was all in. She went on to play for the Canadian women's national flag football team and to quarterback the Montreal Blitz of the Independent Women's Football League.

Rapoport says football is a good sport for women as it's open to all body types. "No matter what you look like, no matter your genetics, there's always a position for you," she says. "No single accomplishment is attributable to one player. It's the definition of a true team sport." 

MAEVE HALDANE



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**A
translator
for
E.T.**



If aliens ever landed on Earth, we would have a whole lot of questions. Where did they come from? Why are they here? And — if there weren't any translators in their crew — how can we communicate with them?

That scenario is the premise of Denis Villeneuve's latest film, **ARRIVAL**. The movie revolves around a linguistics expert, Louise Banks (played by Amy Adams, pictured above), who collaborates with U.S. military officials when aliens actually do show up. Can she decipher the aliens' language — and determine if they come in peace?

The movie, which earned eight Oscar nominations, was shot in Montreal and when the filmmakers went looking for an actual linguistics scholar to lend a hand, they turned to McGill.

Enter **JESSICA COON**, an associate professor in the Department of Linguistics. Coon and another colleague in her department, **MORGAN SONDEREGGER**, supplied feedback on the film's script. Coon also worked with the set crew. Amy Adams picked her brains over lunch.

Sequences that take place in the code-breaking tent where military cryptographers struggle to crack the aliens' language, feature words that Coon wrote on whiteboards to lend that process a more authentic air. Words like "articulators."

The articulators that humans use to form speech include our tongue, teeth and lips. "[The aliens] don't look human at all, their vocal tracts and their mouths or whatever they're using to make language is nothing like ours," says Coon. In a situation like that, the military experts would probably be doing a lot of thinking about articulators.

Coon annotated a sample of the aliens' written language and even offered up her office as an example of what an academic linguist's workspace might look like. The film crew seemed to prefer the office of her departmental colleague, **LISA TRAVIS**, though. "Because of the mess I have," says Travis, who adds that the Louise Banks character's office in the movie looks a

lot like hers. Some of her and Coon's books even wound up in the film; the crew rented the contents of their bookshelves to help fill Banks's office.

"[Banks] worked on 'exotic' languages, or languages that aren't commonly studied, and she's done that in the field in different faraway locations," says Coon. "So [the filmmakers] wanted someone I think who'd had that experience, specifically."

The McGill scholar fit the bill. Coon's work has taken her to Latin America to study the structure of Mayan languages. As a syntactician, Coon's goal is to identify basic parts of languages and how people use them to build words and sentences. To do her work, she goes into communities where she listens to conversations and asks people who speak the language questions about how they use it.

Though an alien landing may be science fiction, some of the themes explored in the movie focus on what it means to be human. "I think one thing the film does a good job of highlighting is how central human language is to identity," says Coon.

"Thinking especially about under-documented and endangered languages, these are sort of especially critical to study because a lot of them are at pretty serious risk of no longer being spoken."

Coon has experience in trying to help nurture such languages. She is assisting First Nations communities in their efforts to preserve Mi'gmaq, a language mostly spoken in eastern Quebec and the Maritimes. The project aims to develop digital tools to help people who want to learn the language.

While Coon's days on a movie set are over, she jokes that the experience might open other doors someday.

"Maybe if aliens do show up now, I'll be the one they call."

KATE SHERIDAN, BA&Sc '14

Waging war with a roll of the die



Sometimes, you can gain a clearer perspective on some of the world's most dangerous situations by playing a game. That's certainly an approach that political science professor **REX BRYNEN** believes in.

He is the co-creator of *Aftershock*, a board game loosely based on such real-life disasters as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. *Aftershock* has been used to help train humanitarian aid specialists and peacekeepers.

Brynen also collaborated with a British army major to create *ISIS Crisis*, a game that has piqued the interest of military planners in Canada and elsewhere.

ISIS Crisis is set in Iraq and features six players: The United States, Iran, ISIS, the Iraqi government, the Sunni opposition and the Kurdish regional government. As one player makes a move, and everyone else reacts, any number of potentially volatile scenarios can be explored.

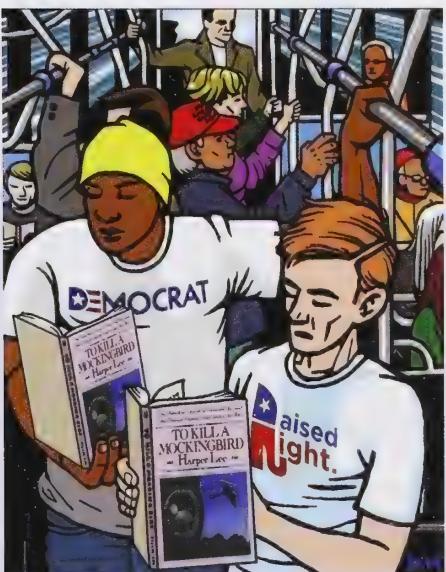
"You're not limited by what's in front of you on the board, like *Risk* or *Monopoly*," says Brynen. "You can argue for anything that your actor can do. You outline what you want to do, what effect it will have if successful, and the factors which you think will result in success. The participants then discuss what might make it likely to succeed or fail and you end up with a laundry list of reasons."

That process can be useful for predicting what the major players in the region might actually do in the real world, he adds.

As the conflict evolves, so too has the game.

"When we started the game, ISIS was on the march and conquering more territory. The briefings to the players had to give ISIS that sense of momentum. Now they're losing territory, so we have to update the game to reflect that."

ERIK LEIJON



BRIDGING THE POLITICAL DIVIDE WITH BOOKS

The study analyzed the virtual bookshelves of 27,000 users of the Amazon-owned book site Goodreads. First, the researchers determined the political leaning of each user based on whether they had given a positive score to a book selected from a list of highly partisan non-fiction selections. Then, they looked for fiction books that appeared on both conservative and liberal bookshelves.

"Bridge books are ones that seem to not drive readership by political viewpoint," says Piper. "What's interesting to us is those books are different in nature amongst themselves. There were classics like *To Kill A Mockingbird* or *1984*, but in other cases it was currently popular books or 19th century fiction." *Jane Eyre* and *Frankenstein* both turned up on the list. So did Stephen King's *11/22/63*.

In these polarizing times, can liberals and conservatives agree on anything? According to a new study co-authored by **ANDREW PIPER**, the director of txtLAB, a digital humanities laboratory at McGill, books may be the answer.

"When conservatives or liberals talk about *1984* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*, they use less divisive language than when they talk about partisan books," says Piper.

Can reading these books make a person less partisan? The study didn't reach that conclusion, but Piper believes promoting commonalities can help bring people together.

"It confirms a lot of the beliefs literary scholars have had for a long time, which is that complex works of literature are good for us because they make us think about more complex problems, and they allow us to do so in a less partisan, more hypothetical way."

ERIK LEIJON



THIS GAME GOES RIGHT FOR THE GUT

Thousands of microbes call your gut home. What's more, your microbe population is uniquely diverse: Census data from your microbiome is different from mine.

A few microbes cause disease and many are necessary for our wellbeing, but on balance, "we have no idea about the relationship between these microbes and our lifestyles or health," says **JÉRÔME WALDISPÜHL**, an associate professor of computer science. There's *some* sort of relationship between the two — studies are clear about that, says Waldispühl — but the details are hazy.

He has developed a game for smart phones and tablets to help the researchers at the American Gut Project process heaps of data on the microbial populations of 10,000 people.

The premise of *Colony B* is simple: shown screens of dots, circle the ones that appear in a cluster. Those dots represent people, and those that are clustered together have similar bacteria hanging out in their gut.

Sorting the data helps researchers make associations between what kinds of bacteria are common in healthy people, and which are found in those with problems like irritable bowel syndrome.

This isn't Waldispühl's first foray into games that harness people-power: in 2010, he released a game called *Phylo*, in which participants helped scientists sequence DNA. These games accomplish what computers alone cannot. There's just no mathematical algorithm that can do this type of sorting exercise easily, says Waldispühl. But humans happen to be great at it.

It's a splendid way to keep your hands busy while you're on the subway or watching TV, says Waldispühl and it's for a good cause. "You are playing for something useful, it's not just wasting your time."

SHANNON PALUS, BSc'13



ROBOT ART *one dot at a time*

 Montreal is increasingly known for its outdoor mural art. It's possible that one of the city's next memorable murals could be the handiwork of a flying robot. A drone the size of a few slices of apple, to be specific.

The versatile aerial wonders in associate professor of computer science **PAUL KRY**'s lab can fit in the palm of your hand and weigh only a few grams. They've been programmed to paint by dabbing dots on a surface — a technique known as stippling. Kry's robots are currently being used to re-create famous faces.

"The longest print we've done was Grace Kelly, which took 2,000 stipples and about four hours," says Kry. The robots have also done portraits of Alan Turing and Che Guevara.

An article about the project by Kry and three student collaborators recently won a "best paper" prize at an international symposium in Lisbon on computational aesthetics in graphics and imaging.

While programming the robots for their stippling feats is no easy chore, they largely work autonomously once they're in action.

"First it will fly to the right position, 10 centimetres from the canvas," Kry explains. "When it's hovering nicely, it will go on a collision course with the wall and once it hits and the dot is made, it goes into a recovery mode where it flies away to [do] the next stipple."

Kry can envision larger versions of his drones being used to paint murals on hard-to-reach outdoor surfaces, including curved or irregular facades.

"There are a million interesting, useful applications for these things," he says. "They could be reusable, environmentally friendly fireworks if you can control hundreds of them in coordinated patterns."

ERIK LEIJON

The tricky business of truth-telling

According to a recent McGill study involving almost 100 children between the ages of six and 12, lying isn't always a black and white proposition for kids.

"We were interested in gaining a more nuanced picture of children's perceptions of truth and lies — since not all lies have negative consequences for the other person, and not all truths have positive consequences for someone else," says **VICTORIA TALWAR**, a Canada Research Chair in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology.

Talwar's team showed children a series of short videos in which childlike puppets either told the truth or lied. The variable was the outcome of the puppets' words.

Sometimes the lies caused harm — blaming an innocent for their own misdeeds. In other scenarios, the lie protected someone, by taking the blame for a misdeed. The videos also portrayed puppets telling truths, such as "tattling," that could harm someone else.

After watching the videos, the children had no difficulty, no matter what their age, in distinguishing truth from lies. They were also adept at deciding which lies were the most harmful — with two notable differences between younger and older children.

False confessions to help someone else were difficult to assess; younger children saw these as being more negative than older ones did. The older children were also more conflicted about tattling than younger kids were.



"Younger children see things more starkly — truths are good and lies are bad. The older they are, the more interested children are in the consequences of these actions," says **SHANNA MARY WILLIAMS**, BA'08, MA'11, PhD'15, who did much of the research for the study.

KATHERINE GOMBAY, MA'92

TOSSING AND TURNING (while he sleeps like a log)

If you're having trouble focusing on work late at night, or a hard time waking up in the morning, it might be thanks to your body's internal clock. You could blame your biological sex for that clock's workings: it seems that men and women might, in general, sleep best on different schedules.

A recent study from **DIANE B. BOIVIN**, a professor of psychiatry based at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, shows that gender influences the way your internal clock controls your sleep patterns.

Having noticed that women tend to be more susceptible to insomnia, Boivin began a study on sleep that looked at gender differences while also taking women's periods and birth control pill usage into account — the first such study of its kind.

Boivin looked at data from 11 women, who were in two different phases of their menstrual cycles, and 15 men, who had all spent several days at the Douglas. After a period of adjustment, participants spent 36 hours alternately sleeping for an hour and spending an hour awake, as researchers collected data on their body temperature, melatonin levels, alertness, and how much shut eye they managed to get.



Overall, the results indicated that women with menstrual cycles are better suited to falling asleep earlier and waking up earlier than men. Additionally, they're less alert during the night.

Boivin thinks that the differences could account for the fact that, on balance, women tend to experience more sleep problems than men do. And they might also have more difficulties when they're trying to work on a nocturnal schedule.

SHANNON PALUS, BSc'13

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REBOOTING BRAIN SCIENCE

With new methods for combing through huge amounts of data and a willingness to share that data in unprecedented ways, McGill is embarking on a new era of neuroscience.

by Daniel McCabe, BA'89

“We’ve been doing a lousy job of advancing neuroscience.”

That blunt assessment, directed towards the entire field of neuroscience just a few months ago, was jarring — particularly given the source. The words belonged to Guy Rouleau, a leading authority on neurodegenerative diseases. He has played a major role in the identification of more than 20 genes associated with neurological and psychiatric illnesses. He is the director of McGill’s Montreal Neurological Institute (the Neuro), one of the best-known neuroscience centres in the world.

“We just aren’t progressing quickly enough,” he said. “We need to find ways to do things differently.” And, with the recent unveiling of a series of bold new initiatives, McGill will be doing things very differently indeed.

Pick up a copy of *Scientific American* or *Discover*, and you’d probably conclude that the current state of neuroscience was quite robust. Researchers always seem to be unearthing new pieces of the puzzle that is the human brain. Rouleau would be quick to agree that those discoveries are valuable, but he would add that they aren’t getting us where we need to go quickly enough. We have to do a better job of fitting those puzzle pieces together. The stakes are high.

According to the World Health Organization, by the year 2040, brain diseases will kill more Canadians each year than cancer does. Brain Canada estimates the economic toll of neurological and psychiatric illnesses in this country at \$22.7 billion a year.

“As people live longer, brain diseases become more prevalent,” says Alan Evans, the Neuro’s James McGill Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry. “People didn’t

die from Alzheimer’s disease 200 years ago, because they were dead from something else long before Alzheimer’s disease could appear. We also know that there is such a thing as healthy aging, where you can keep filling out the crossword puzzles and playing chess like a champ when you’re 95. It isn’t predetermined that you’ll begin to lose it at a certain point. We believe we can prevent neurodegeneration.”

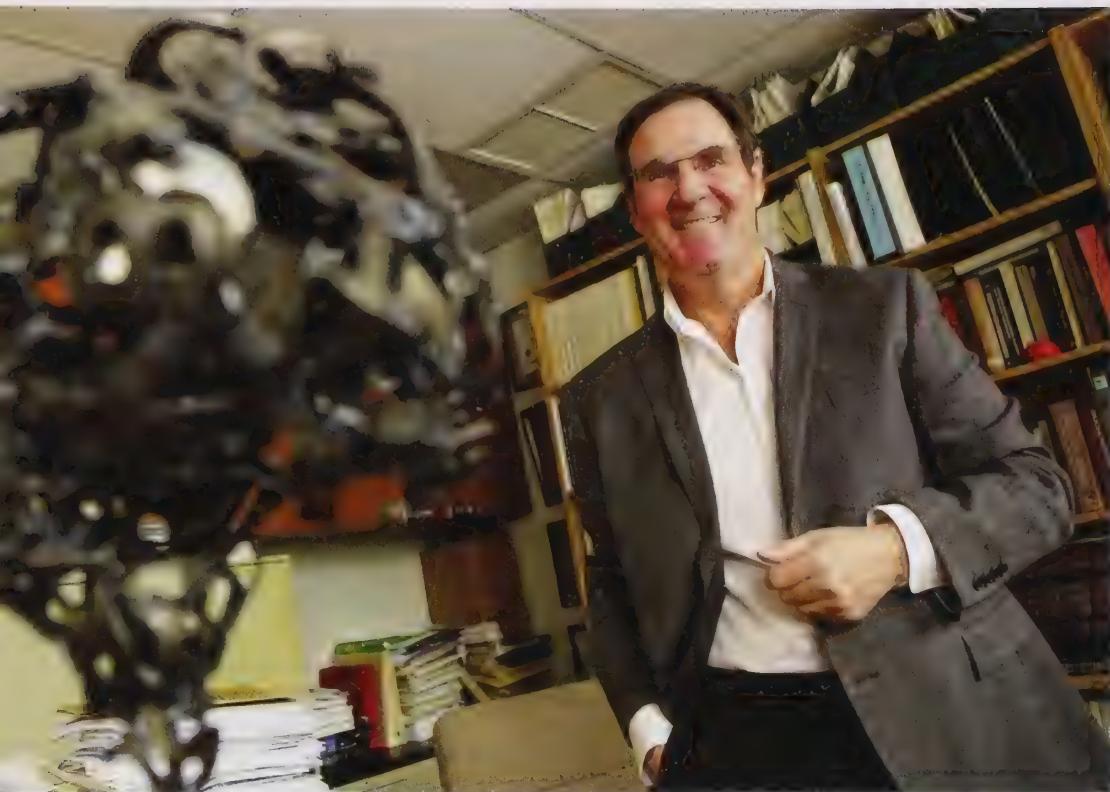
THE ENIGMA INSIDE OUR HEADS

For all the progress that neuroscience has made, the brain is still largely a mystery. The three pounds of squishy organic material nestled inside your skull just might be the most complicated thing on this planet.

Sir Roger Penrose, the famed British mathematical physicist, once declared, “Compared to the complexity of a brain, a galaxy is just an inert lump.” Stanford University neuroscientist Stephen Smith more recently likened each of the brain’s trillions of synapses to a microprocessor.

Last fall, McGill received word that its Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (HBHL) program would be receiving a monumental \$84 million grant over a seven year period from the federal government’s Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). That money will fuel a multidisciplinary approach to neuroscience that marshals the expertise of a wide assortment of researchers and connects them to advances being made in the burgeoning fields of computational modeling and neuroinformatics.

At the same time, the Neuro is launching a pioneering effort in the realm of open science. It will be eschewing patents for its discoveries and doing all it can to make its research findings — and all the data associated with that research — widely available.



↑ Associate Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)
Anne McKinney

← Alan Evans is the scientific director for Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives

↓ Associate professor of computer science Doina Precup

"I see this as a transformative period," says Rouleau. "We're creating an ecosystem here that should lead to some very exciting things."

Evans is the scientific director for HBHL. "We're in the midst of a major paradigmatic transition," he says. Neuroscientists, thanks to advances in imaging and other technologies, have been able to accumulate huge amounts of information about the brain. But deciphering all that data in a meaningful way and drawing firm conclusions about how one piece of it might connect to another? That part of the equation continues to be daunting.

"Collecting the data is only half the story," says Evans. "Turning that data into knowledge is a huge process, requiring computational modeling and complex algorithms. So the world of neuroscience is changing, and we're bringing in the mathematicians and the computer scientists and the physicists. And somehow, all these people have to be able to talk to the neurologists and the psychiatrists and the cognitive neuroscientists and the neurobiologists. Putting all those communities together in one tent is both a challenge and a joy. That's what HBHL is all about."

"HBHL has the potential to be the biggest thing for McGill since [Wilder] Penfield built the Neuro — and I know that's a dramatic thing to say," adds Associate Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) Anne McKinney, who also chairs the Brain@McGill program that helps nurture collaborations between McGill's neuroscience community and other institutions. "Penfield's vision for the Neuro was revolutionary in how he had basic scientists and clinicians working closely together for the first time. That model is now used around the world. If [HBHL] works as well as we expect, it could become a new model for the world."

A NEW SET OF ANALYTICAL TOOLS

Evans, who will also be leading HBHL's Neuroinformatics and Modeling program, firmly believes that rapidly evolving computational techniques will play an essential role in ushering in a new era of neuroscience. As it turns out, the feeling is mutual. A computer program developed at the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence in the U.S. recently ploughed through 2.5 million research articles to determine who the world's most influential neuroscientists were. Evans was ranked sixth.

His expertise is highly prized among those in flesh and blood circles too. Evans was recently awarded the Prix Wilder-Penfield, the Quebec government's top prize for biomedical research.

“HBHL has the potential to be the biggest thing for McGill since [Wilder] Penfield built the Neuro.”

“In the eighties, we set up the McConnell Brain Imaging Centre [at the Neuro],” says Evans. A neuroimaging facility equipped with some of the most sophisticated MRI and PET technologies in existence, the centre is a vital resource for neuroscientists with a wide range of interests. “The core principle was that we’d develop methods which are generalizable and applicable in many different settings. People who are interested in epilepsy or multiple sclerosis or normal brain cognition, they can all use the common imaging and analytic infrastructure. That’s what we want to develop now with computational modeling and neuroinformatics. I think this is just a larger version of that same vision. The idea is that everybody can win.”

Doina Precup is one of the computer scientists that Evans is welcoming to the HBHL tent. She is an associate professor of computer science and her research interests include machine learning and artificial intelligence — and the ways in which AI and complex computational methods might contribute to the world of medicine.

When you think of machine learning, consider IBM’s Watson and how it became highly adept at pouring through massive amounts of data to become spectacularly proficient at a precisely defined task — conquering *Jeopardy!*



OWEN EGAN

“Diseases can be highly complex and treatments aren’t always straightforward,” Precup says. “Different subgroups of a disease respond well to certain treatments, while others don’t. Sometimes, treatments need to be adjusted over time. And people don’t all respond [to the same treatments] the same way. Everyone is unique, with their own case histories. This is where machine learning can help.”

“By digging through reams of data, we can try to pinpoint how one patient is different from another patient that a treatment worked more effectively for. Machine learning can help pave the way for more personalized approaches. The hope is to build core tools that can be deployed in a hospital setting for patient care.”

Evans offers an example of how the work of his lab recently profited from both advanced computational methods and open science practices.

“There is a public database for Alzheimer’s disease called ADNI [Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative]. The data is collected across dozens of sites throughout the U.S. and put in the public domain. Anybody can get at it. Members of my lab downloaded that data and started to explore how the disease might propagate through the brain.” The data examined included more than 7,700 brain images of Alzheimer’s patients at different stages of the disease, along with cognitive tests and blood and cerebrospinal fluid samples.

“It revealed some very interesting findings,” says Evans. According to the McGill team’s work, the first physiological sign of Alzheimer’s disease is typically a decrease in blood flow in the brain, followed by an accumulation of the protein amyloid.

“The buildup of [amyloid] in the brain isn’t because of over-production, it’s because of under-clearance. If you don’t sweep it away, it builds up. So, that leads you to the perspective that, there’s no point in designing a drug that targets the synthesis of amyloid, because it’s not being over-produced. You have to look at the mechanisms for clearing the stuff away. That might be the glymphatic system, which is like a lymph system for the brain — it sweeps away the debris and junk. If that isn’t working, you get the buildup of the protein, and you get the disease. That’s a hypothesis that will be tested by others now. All of this came from publicly available data that was free to us. That just didn’t happen 20 years ago.”

“We’re the beneficiaries of open science and we contribute to that vision as well,” says Evans. “Along with colleagues in Germany, we built a brain atlas called BigBrain.” The world’s first 3D atlas of an entire human brain and its microscopic structures, BigBrain is available to all for research purposes. “It’s been downloaded by 25,000 people around the world,” says Evans. “We take and we give back.” (For more about the Neuro’s commitment to open science practices, please see accompanying article.)

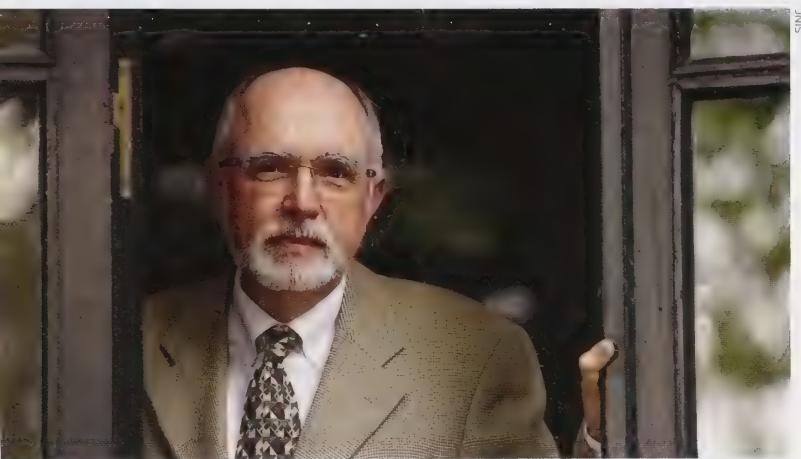
PROBING PLASTICITY

HBHL won't just be looking at brains that are besieged by disease. Robert Zatorre, a professor of psychology, and neurology and neurosurgery, leads HBHL's Dynamic Brain Project. His focus will be brain plasticity — how brains learn and why some brains are better able to recover from injuries or disorders than others.

"There is a lot of talk about brain stimulation these days and a lot of it is nonsense," says Zatorre. "but that doesn't mean that this isn't a serious area of research." What's needed are better controlled studies combining brain stimulation with imaging and other techniques, which HBHL will support. Some legitimate studies on electrical brain stimulation have pointed to intriguing (albeit fleeting) improvements in memory function, for instance.

"These studies point to possible applications that could be developed, so we need to look at that carefully," says Zatorre.

His own research has pointed to the complexity of learning. Last year, Zatorre led a research team that tracked a group of young adults learning to play the piano. Their brains were scanned before and after they took part in six weeks of musical training. "When we looked at the brain activity in these people before the teaching began, we were able to predict who would be able to learn more quickly," says Zatorre. Some brains seem to be better equipped than others to learn certain types of things. "We need to gain a better understanding of those predispositions so we can design more appropriate forms of training according to individual needs."



McGill epigenetics pioneer Michael Meaney will lead HBHL's Population Neuroscience and Brain Health component. Other leading McGill experts will play important roles on HBHL subcommittees.

Precup will lead the NeuroHub, the advanced analytic platform that will support much of HBHL's work. Transcultural psychiatry expert Lawrence Kirmayer, BSc'74, MDCM'78, will oversee social sciences. Gustavo Turecki, PhD'99, an authority on suicide, and Lesley Fellows, BSc'90, MDCM'96, an expert on decision-making, will co-lead HBHL's clinical translational efforts. Brigitte Kieffer, a top authority on the use of animal models for psychiatric research, will lead animal model work. The Neuro's Edward Fon, whose research focuses on Parkinson's disease and neuronal degeneration, heads the cellular and tissue mechanisms subgroup.

The Neuro's Guy Rouleau will lead HBHL's Mechanisms of Neurodegenerative Disease program. Using neuroinformatics, Rouleau and his colleagues will focus on the brains of individuals known to carry disease-associated genes. "What we hope to accomplish is to identify molecules and compounds that have a significant effect on the disease models we have. We want to be able to point to specific mechanisms in the brain, so that industry can follow up on that and develop effective new drugs."

SOCIAL SCIENCE MEETS NEUROSCIENCE

Another group of researchers who will be playing a key role in HBHL are social scientists.

"What we've learned from epigenetics experts like Michael Meaney, is that social circumstances can lead to epigenetic changes and make people more or less susceptible to certain diseases," says McKinney. "This is where the social science component [of HBHL] is extremely important, to get a better understanding of that. If you look at suicide rates among teenagers, why are some groups more susceptible? Socioeconomic factors certainly play a major role. There are policymaking implications to all this."

"Working with communities is extremely important," says McKinney. "Examining their environments and seeing what their needs are. That's why a significant part of our CFREF funding will be directed towards public outreach. We want to share our findings with the public. We want them to be involved with what we're doing and to understand what we're doing."

"We want to develop a better understanding of the cultural influences on normal brain development. That could have huge societal implications," says Evans. "All of us are bombarded, our children in particular, with social media and the vast amounts of information that constantly stream in on our digital devices. To what extent are people's brains being modified by the electronic environment that we all now live in?"

"We expect that we'll be breaking down barriers and addressing specific questions by having a multidisciplinary approach," says McKinney. "So, we might see someone doing genetics working with a medical imaging expert and some people from the social sciences. You could be an engineer who's never done anything in neuroscience before, but you have an interesting idea for a gadget that can be used in rehabilitation."

"I carefully avoid using the word 'cure,' but 'treatment?' Treatment is a continuum," says Evans of the impact he expects HBHL to make in the years ahead. "Once we better understand how the brain works at the level of systems and circuitry, we can determine how to interfere with an abnormal mechanism in a constructive way. That's true across all these disorders."

"We will be able to [help identify] interventions that improve the quality of life [for people] with a number of neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental disorders," says Evans. "We will make significant contributions on that front. That is something I'm confident about." 

↗ **Robert Zatorre leads the HBHL's Dynamic Brain Project**



PHOTO: OWEN EGAN

A GAME CHANGER FOR FOR OPEN SCIENCE

The Montreal Neurological Institute's ambitious — and, in many ways, unprecedented — commitment to open science received a huge boost last December when the Neuro launched its new **TANENBAUM OPEN SCIENCE INSTITUTE**, an initiative made possible thanks to a \$20 million gift from the Larry and Judy Tanenbaum family.

"This is a catalyst," says Neuro director Guy Rouleau of the new institute. "This is really going to allow us to get things done."

For at least the next five years, the Neuro will be giving other scientists open access to the massive amounts of research-related data that Neuro researchers have compiled. The institute also won't be pursuing patents, to make it easier for others to build on Neuro discoveries.

While there have been other large-scale open science initiatives — usually involving several partners collaborating in a specific area — the Neuro is the first major research institute of its kind to make such a wide-ranging commitment to open science.

"There are a number of published examples of this, where scientists from outside institutions have looked at open datasets and made meaningful discoveries — even repurposing drugs to help treat patients with what would seem to be unrelated diseases," says Jason Karamchandani, an assistant professor of pathology and a neuropathologist at the Neuro.

Karamchandani will oversee one of the Tanenbaum Institute's most important projects, building the CBIG-Repository, a massive assemblage of research-related materials. "We're aiming to collect clinical, biological, imaging and genetic data on patients with neurological disease and the goal of this is to make it open to researchers nationally and internationally," he says.

The CBIG-Repository is already partnering with the Quebec Parkinson Network. "That pilot project is the best example of what we hope to do," says Karamchandani. "We already have more than 100 patients [with Parkinson's disease] who have altruistically agreed to donate to CBIG. Fifty of those patients will receive high-level imaging and all of this will be anonymous, de-identified and placed on a secure server where researchers with an ethically valid and scientifically valid question can access the data that they require to answer their research questions."

"We're hoping that this becomes a template for other institutions," says Tanenbaum, the vice chair of Brain Canada, a national non-profit organization dedicated to furthering our understanding of the brain and brain diseases. "If you think about all the different kinds of data that sits within [the Neuro's] four walls, whether we're talking about biosamples or brain imaging, it's an enormous pool of information. By sharing this, by putting this up on an open platform, hopefully others will follow suit and open their science up."

Revenues generated from \$10 million from the Tanenbaum gift will be used to fund the new institute's operational costs. The other \$10 million will go towards spurring open science efforts at other Canadian institutions.

In a recent piece published in the journal *PLOS Biology*, McGill law professor Richard Gold, BSc'84, wrote that the Neuro hopes its approach to open science "will draw companies to the Montreal region, where the Neuro is based, leading to the creation of a local knowledge hub." Gold, an expert on intellectual property issues who has been serving as an open science adviser to the Neuro, added that the plan was already bearing fruit — Thermo Fisher Scientific, a multinational biotech firm interested in neurodegenerative diseases, will be partnering with the Neuro.

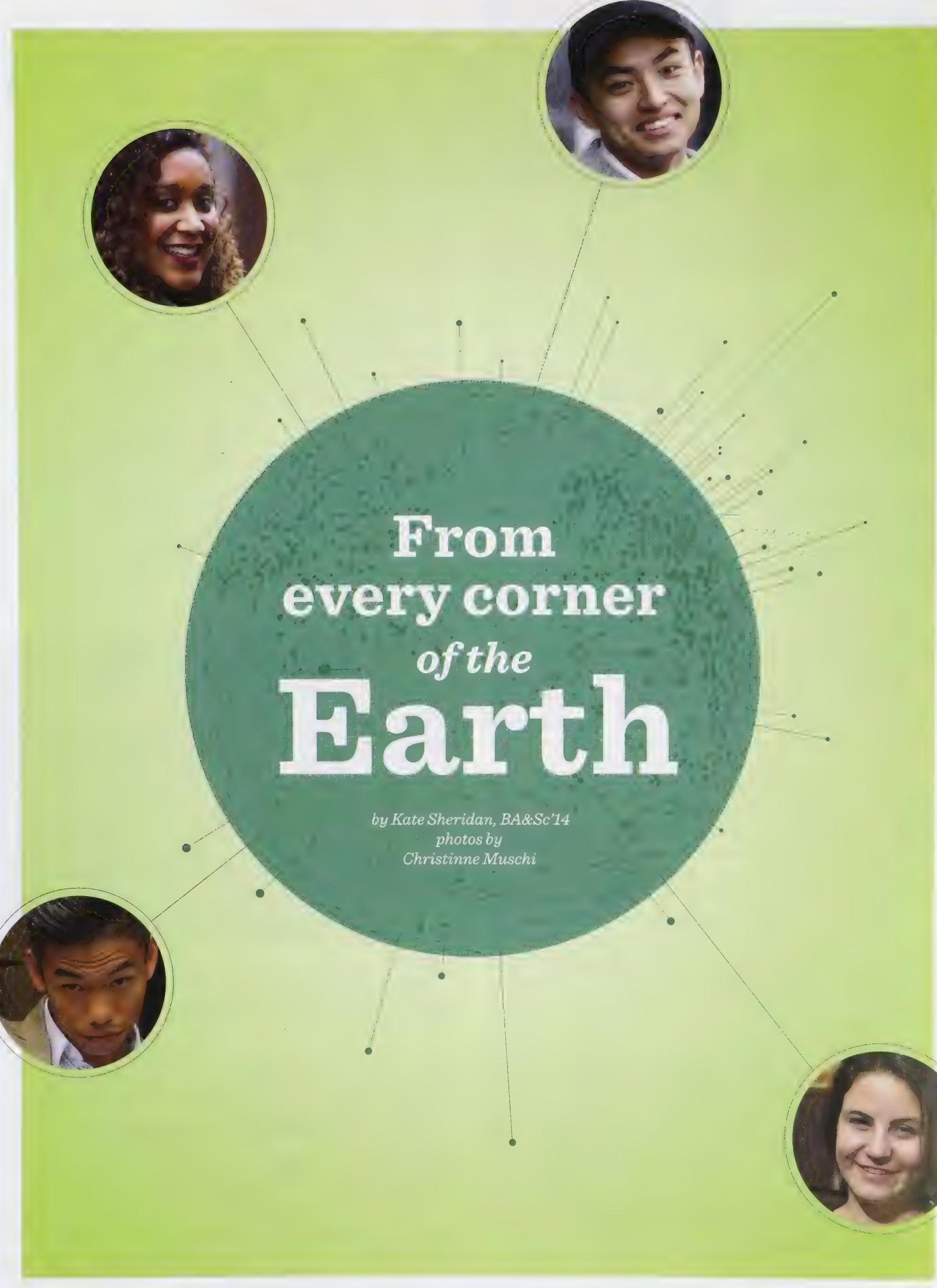
"I think the word is out there," says Rouleau. "People are looking at us and looking to see how this works and how we'll do it. Now we have to deliver. This gift from Mr. Tanenbaum and his family will help us to deliver."

"A lot of credit has to go to all the people at the Neuro for taking this bold step — and it really is a bold step," says Tanenbaum.

"I think the Neuro will be a beacon of hope to those who are afflicted with brain disease because of this open science idea."

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

↑ (Left to right) Toronto business leader Larry Tanenbaum, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, BA'94, Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, and Montreal Neurological Institute director Guy Rouleau were on hand for the official launch of the new Tanenbaum Open Science Institute on December 16



From every corner *of the* **Earth**

by Kate Sheridan, BA&Sc '14

photos by
Christinne Muschi

They come from Boston and Beijing, from Barcelona and Bangalore, from Brisbane and Bordeaux. More than a quarter of McGill's students arrive here from other countries and they play an essential role in making the University a special place.

When Alexa Dumont, a jazz performance student, first arrived at McGill, she wasn't so certain that the label "international student" applied to her. After all, the drive to Montreal from her home in Foxborough, Massachusetts, didn't seem like such a big deal.

Shuaibo Huang's path to McGill was a little more complicated.

After his plane took off from an airport close to his hometown of Harbin in China, he settled in for the long haul. After months of preparation — taking the SATs and language tests, getting his visa documents in order — he was on his way to Montreal to begin a new chapter in his life.

After a few hours in the air, though, "I realized that the direction of the flight was wrong." A flight attendant soon announced the plane needed an engine repair. They would have to divert to Sichuan, a southern province in China, where the airline's maintenance facilities were located. Huang wound up even further away from McGill than where he started.

He did finally make it to Montreal, where he joined Dumont and thousands of other students who travelled to McGill from 147 different countries, part of a group that comprises almost 11,000 members — and 27 per cent — of McGill's student population.

CHOOSING MCGILL

Why do they come? Some of the reasons are common. McGill enjoys a reputation for high academic standards and consistently performs well in the various international rankings of universities (and, yes, prospective students from other countries pay very close attention to those rankings). Montreal is a safe and affordable city with a unique Europe-meets-North-America vibe (parents tend to be particularly keen on those first two characteristics).

For Idil Üner, a psychology and economics student who has lived in Turkey, Thailand and Germany, it was McGill's international culture that appealed to her. "I don't think I would have been able to go to a school that didn't offer that to me," she says.

Dumont, one of the more than 2,300 McGill students holding an American passport, says her Montreal-based aunt helped sell her on the city. "I wanted to be in a city and be involved in everything that happens [there]. New York was such a big city that I felt lost, and Boston is like my hometown. I wanted something new." Montreal fits the bill nicely, she says.

Celine Poisson, an economics and Hispanic studies student from New York, had her own reasons for choosing McGill and Montreal. She didn't want to lose her French. Her parents are French and Haitian, and Poisson attended the bilingual Lycée française in New York.

Poisson is the co-president of the McGill International Student Network, a student-run group that organizes social and cultural events for international students and offers language classes taught by student volunteers.

Psychology student Gul Saeed is MISN's other co-president and she sees the diversity of McGill's student body as a definite source of strength for the University. "Coming here, no one really stares at you because you're different," Saeed says. Her family moved from Pakistan to Japan, and Montreal has offered her a chance to reconnect with her roots; there is a stronger Pakistani presence in the city than there was in Japan.

Huang, a computer science and psychology student, says his original plan was to go to an American university — until he noticed the lower tuition rates at top Canadian schools. "That definitely played a huge role in my decision," he says.

Depending on the program, the tuition rates at McGill for international students compare very favourably with those at U.S. universities of similar quality. "In some cases, we're a great deal. In other cases, we're certainly in the ballpark," says associate registrar Jocelyne Younan.

Huang considered both the University of Toronto and McGill before opting for the latter. "I decided to come to McGill and to Montreal because it's so diverse, you get to see so many different people, and you're basically in Europe, right?"

He isn't the only student from China making that choice. This year, for the first time, China overtook France as the country that sends the second highest number of international students to McGill (the U.S. is still in top spot).

This shift has been a long time coming. "We've been [recruiting in China] for years," says registrar Kathleen Massey, who recently travelled there herself on a recruitment mission. McGill uses WeChat, a messaging app that is particularly popular in China, to answer questions from prospective students there. As China's middle class expands, more families have the means to send their children to universities in other countries. "They seem to value an international education in English-language universities," says Massey.



GETTING SETTLED

International students do have to make some adjustments once they begin their studies here.

"I was definitely prepared for the weather," says Huang — Harbin is known for its snow and ice festival. Language was more of an issue than he expected, though. His English was strong, but he soon discovered awkward gaps in his knowledge. "Some of the vocabulary that you learn [in China] — it's not really practical," he says. "You wouldn't learn what the difference is between a donut and a bagel. They were the same thing to me!"

Üner misses her family, but regularly talks to her parents on Skype. "With technology right now, it's easy," she says.

Every student adapts differently, says Pauline L'Ecuyer, the director of International Student Services at McGill. "We can have students coming to McGill from Rouyn-Noranda who would have a bigger culture shock than a student coming from Shanghai," she says. A lot depends on how widely travelled they are. Students with a previous international experience under their belts have an easier time of it.



↑ Shuaibo Huang and Idil Üner are floor fellows at McGill's Carrefour Sherbrooke student residence

← Jazz performance student Alexa Dumont

↓ Members of McGill's student recruitment team (l to r) Liana Hall Dumond, Jocelyn Younan, Kathleen Massey, Melissa Maione and Marylou Cormier



“Coming to McGill and getting to meet every type of person was really eye-opening. You get to meet the person and not the stereotype.”

L'Ecuyer's office oversees a buddy program that pairs new international students with an upper-year McGill student. This year, more than 700 volunteers have been helping 1,600 new international students adjust to Montreal. “Pretty much all of our volunteers are doing this because they met a buddy when they arrived, and they said it made such a big difference in how they found their way around campus and around Montreal — and in developing their sense of belonging to the community.”

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

Massey's student recruitment team visited 13 American states and 20 different countries in 2016. While jet-setting around the world might sound glamorous, recruitment can be exhausting work; there are school visits during the day and information sessions and events in the evening. “[Recruiters] always have to be on,” Massey says.

With limited resources, the recruitment team has to think carefully about where to focus their efforts. They pay close attention to demographic trends and adjust accordingly. For example, prospective students in the American Southwest and in Texas may see more of McGill recruiters as the number of university-aged people in that region increases. A virtual recruitment session via webinar is held for potential students who live in areas that McGill recruiters aren't able to visit.

Whether a recruiter is in Beijing or Baie d'Urfé, the fundamental message is always the same, Massey says. Prospective students are interested in McGill's high academic standards (and its performance in the various university rankings), its admission requirements and financial aid opportunities (unlike many universities, McGill makes its merit-based and need-based financial aid available to international students).

And, of course, they want to find out about Montreal — and the notorious Canadian winters. Recruitment officers carefully explain how it's possible to thrive outdoors in the winter and that polar bears don't compete with pedestrians for sidewalk space. “We do get that question!” Massey says. Not everyone knows where Montreal is, she notes — or that it's well south of the polar bear's natural range.

Though international students pay significantly higher tuition rates, most of the revenue is redistributed by the Quebec government to all universities in the province.

“What motivates us in recruiting international students is a real interest in being an intellectually, culturally, linguistically diverse environment,” says Massey.

Classroom discussions tend to be more complex when the students in a course come from different places and have had different experiences in life, says Dean of Students Chris Buddle. A conversation about Canada-U.S. relations, for instance, “becomes more real when you're sitting next to someone from Illinois or South Carolina.”

“Coming to McGill and getting to meet every type of person was really eye-opening. You get to meet the person and not the stereotype,” Poisson says. Huang thinks he might upend clichéd notions that some people who meet him have about students from China — that they're super-serious bookworms, for instance. “I go out with my friends a lot and I'm really open to different experiences.”

Montreal benefits from the presence of international students in other ways too. A recent report from the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal noted that international students make major contributions to the city's economy, spending almost \$540 million a year on housing, food, clothing and other items.

The presence of international students at the graduate level can also change the dynamic in McGill's research labs, says Buddle. The research interests of many international students are influenced by the issues confronting the countries they come from. “We have students who come with the hopes of learning at McGill and then taking that knowledge back to their home country.”



Director of International Student Services at McGill
Pauline L'Ecuyer.

“[International students] are the best we can get and we want them to stay and help our economy grow.”

MAKING A NEW HOME

Sometimes, though, international students decide to stick around after they graduate. Texas-raised musician Win Butler, BA’04, stayed and co-founded Arcade Fire. A native of Portugal, Carlos Leitão, BA’79, planted roots here and eventually became Quebec’s finance minister. The Aldo shoe store empire and the Juliette & Chocolat restaurant chain were both created by McGill graduates who chose to live in Montreal after coming here from different countries (Moroccan-born Aldo Bensadoun, BCom’64, LLD’12, and Brazilian-born Juliette Brun, BA’02, respectively).

Mehrsan Javan, PhD’15, travelled to McGill from Iran to do his doctoral studies in engineering. His research on computer vision led to new techniques for the growing field of sports analytics — the techniques that Javan devised gather very detailed data about the hundreds of plays that take place in a typical hockey game. He stayed in Montreal after completing his degree and co-founded Sportloqiq, which now counts several NHL teams among its clients.

Javan says he had several reasons for remaining in Montreal and some were personal (his now-fiancée was still working on her PhD). “You cannot start a business without having a good network of people,” he says. “Almost all of the amazing people that I have met during my PhD studies are Montreal-based,” including his Sportloqiq partner Craig Buntin, MBA’13. “Montreal is going to be a Canadian startup hub,” he adds. “There are lots of financial sources for early startups in the city.”

Nathon Kong, BSc(AgEnvSc)’07, came to McGill because he wanted to continue his education in English after finishing high school in India. (His family is from Thailand.) After graduating, he worked in the biotech and healthcare sectors before deciding to strike out on his own with Tailor2Go, a mobile custom tailoring service housed in a van equipped with a 3D scanner for very precise measurements. Kong’s business has won an armful of entrepreneurship awards.



Tailor2Go founder, Nathon Kong decided to stay in Montreal after graduating from McGill

As he neared the completion of his McGill degree, he wrestled with the question of what to do next. A degree from McGill would have opened doors for him back home, he says, but he had grown fond of Montreal and had a new network of friends here. “I like challenges,” he says of his decision to stay. “I wanted to make a contribution here.”

The Quebec government is hoping that more international students will make the same choice that Javan and Kong did. As the province’s population gets older and birth rates drop, Quebec is on the lookout for new arrivals with valuable skills. In its recent report on the contribution of Montreal universities to the Quebec economy, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal noted that, “with Quebec’s demographics, it will be difficult to compete with other major metropolitan areas without attracting and retaining more international graduates.”

The Quebec government will be collaborating with Montreal International on measures aimed at encouraging more international students to remain in the province. In announcing this initiative, Quebec immigration, diversity and inclusiveness minister Kathleen Weil, BA’78, BCL’82, LLB’82, noted that international students are already familiar with Quebec culture and have degrees from Quebec institutions. “They are the best we can get and we want them to stay and help our economy grow.”

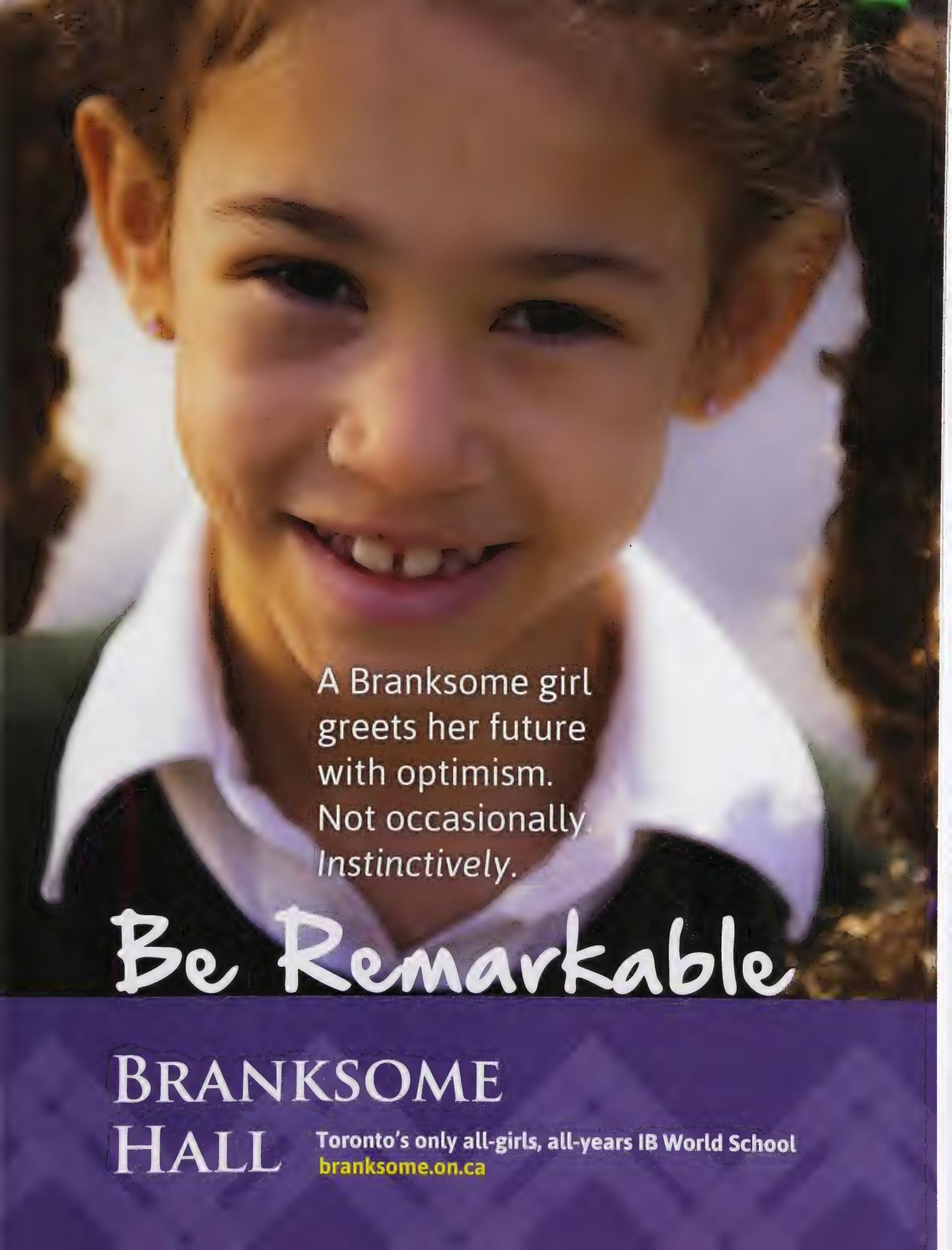
The bottom line, says Montreal International president and CEO Hubert Bolduc, is that “organizations today look for talent, regardless if that’s someone who was raised in L’Île D’Orléans [near Quebec City] or someone who was born and raised in [France].”

Poisson has a job lined up in New York after graduation, but she thinks that she might not be done with Montreal just yet. “The diversity and the openness [are] the reasons why I’d love to come back and settle here.”

Huang says he is open to the idea of staying. “To be honest, I feel like now, I’m more used to this kind of lifestyle than the one I’d have if I go back to China.” As graduation approaches, he is planning his next move. One possibility is a graduate degree in counselling psychology.

He thinks he might like to work with immigrants and help them adapt to a new country and culture — just like he did when he got off his plane in Montreal nearly four years ago.

Kate Sheridan is a Montreal-based writer and her work has been published in the Montreal Gazette and Hakai Magazine. Originally from Bethlehem, New York, she came to McGill for her studies and decided she liked it here.



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THE VIEW FROM THE

TOP

Some of the world's most influential universities recently reached out to McGill alumni to become their new leaders. Here's what those grads have to say about what life looks like from the president's office.

by Daniel McCabe, BA'89

Within the period of a month-and-a-half last fall, it became clear that the future of three of the world's top universities would be largely dependent on the leadership skills of a trio of McGill graduates.

On August 15, Santa Ono, PhD'91, became the new president of the University of British Columbia. September 1 marked the first official day of work for Marc Tessier-Lavigne, BSc'80, DSc'11, in his new role as the president of Stanford University. Later that month, Stephen Toope, BCL'83, LLB'83, was announced as the next vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge. His appointment will begin in October.

In the most recent QS World University Rankings, Stanford was rated the second best university in the world, while Cambridge was ranked fourth. UBC was in 45th place. McGill — also led by a graduate, Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76 — was ranked at number 30. So, according to QS, four of the world's 50 finest universities are led, or soon will be, by McGill alums.

Ono, Tessier-Lavigne and Toope are all seasoned university leaders. Ono was the president of the University of Cincinnati for four years before coming back to Canada to lead UBC. Tessier-Lavigne had been the president of Rockefeller University in New York since 2011. Toope is the director of the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs. Before that, he was UBC's president from 2006 to 2014.

The three men recently shared their thoughts with the *McGill News* on the challenges facing universities and the role that university presidents play. One thing we learned: If you invite Ono and Toope to the same dinner party, steer the conversation away from *Love Story*. Otherwise, things could get awkward.



PAUL JOHNSON

According to the *Cincinnati Business Courier*, **SANTA ONO**'s presidency at the University of Cincinnati "is widely considered one of the most successful tenures in UC history." Ono was a popular figure in the city, thanks, in part, to his deft use of social media. There weren't many job offers that could have lured him away from Cincinnati—but he received one that did.

His father was a professor of mathematics at UBC and Ono was born in a hospital affiliated with the university. "Returning to UBC was literally life coming full circle for me," says Ono.

A highly regarded medical scientist whose work focuses on the immune system and eye inflammation, Ono is also a trained musician known to break out his cello now and then. An advocate for mental health issues, Ono has spoken candidly about his struggles with depression as a young man. *Inside Higher Ed* named him America's most notable university president in 2015 and the American Council on Education recently honoured him for his contributions to diversity in higher education.

Ono met his future wife Wendy Yip, BSc'86, at McGill while pursuing doctoral studies in experimental medicine.

SANTA ONO



What do you see as the biggest challenges facing higher education in the 21st century?

In North America there has been a steady decrease in support from provinces and states of our great public universities. This, coupled with a mandate to freeze or decrease the cost of education for students, has created tremendous pressure to create new funding models for public universities. The American Academy of Arts & Sciences' Lincoln Project rightfully frames the challenge as a threat to America's global competitiveness. The same kind of dialogue and planning needs to occur in Canada to ensure that our public research universities remain among the world's best.

Access and inclusion is another major challenge. We need to continue to create programs and platforms to diversify the faculty, staff and students of our universities, so that the best and brightest can gain access irrespective of their origins, beliefs or ability to pay. In Canada, we need to work hard to ensure that First Nations youth have the same opportunities for educational attainment as other Canadians.

When you first became a university president, what surprised you the most about the job?

When I first became president of the University of Cincinnati, I was surprised by the amount of time I needed to spend overseeing intercollegiate sports. Although I am admittedly a big sports fan, I'm pleased that I can focus much more of my time at UBC on strengthening the core academic missions of the university as president of UBC.

What's the most misunderstood part of the job?

I would say that the biggest myth about the university presidency is that the president has considerable power. In reality, in a shared governance model, the president has very little actual power. Whatever influence a president has comes from the ability to bring people together and to frame issues and to lead by consensus.

What's the best part of the job?

My two favourite moments in an academic year are welcoming new first year students to the university and graduation ceremonies. Paramount among the many contributions universities make to society is that of education of the next generation. Watching the positive transformation of young lives is easily the best part of the job.

When you were a student at McGill, what was your favourite place on or near campus?

I loved spending time at Thomson House. Not only was it a great place to meet other graduate students over a pint of beer, it was a place where I played chamber music.

What was the most important thing you learned at McGill?

I'd say that I was strongly influenced by the ethos at McGill. The long tradition of research excellence was pervasive and set a tone for reaching for the highest in everyone. I've tried to keep that with me everywhere I go.

What's your favourite university-themed film or TV show?

I have to admit that *Love Story* is my favourite. It was the first time I became cognizant of Harvard University. After watching it a few years later, I set my sights on one day studying at Harvard, and, wilder still, perhaps one day becoming a Harvard professor. My interest in the movie grew even more when, while at McGill, I learned that Principal David Johnston played for the Harvard hockey team and was the inspiration for a character in the movie.

Remarkably, my dream came true as I would spend a decade of my life at Harvard, first as a fellow in biochemistry and molecular biology, then as an associate professor. And one of the most memorable moments for me following my selection as UBC's 15th president and vice-chancellor was receiving a phone call from Governor General David Johnston. As my McGill principal, he joked that I was one of his children, and that he was proud of me.



LINDA A. CICERO, STANFORD NEWS SERVICE

After earning a Rhodes Scholarship at McGill, **MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE** boarded the *Queen Elizabeth 2* in New York to travel across the Atlantic with other North American Rhodes recipients bound for Oxford. When he got on the ship, he was planning to do a PhD in physics. By the time he disembarked, he had settled on becoming the first student at Oxford "in living memory" to do a joint philosophy/physiology degree instead.

It turned out to be a pivotal decision. The studies in physiology helped prepare him for a future as a groundbreaking neuroscientist—Tessier-Lavigne is credited with leading the first research team to identify one of the molecules that play major roles in directing nascent neural connections.

The philosophy studies probably helped equip him for the leadership roles he has taken on.

As the executive vice president for research at Genentech, he oversaw the work of 1,400 scientists for the company that developed such high-profile cancer drugs as Avastin and Herceptin. As the president of Rockefeller University, he spearheaded a bold expansion of the campus and led the university's efforts in raising nearly \$1 billion during its last capital campaign.

MARC LESSIER- LAVIGNE STANFORD

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing higher education in the 21st century?

Preserving accessibility and affordability for students is a big one. Colleges and universities are engines of opportunity and social mobility, and broad access to them is important. Sustaining financial support for research also is critical, because the discoveries at research universities today are central to economic growth and quality of life tomorrow.

When you first became a university president, what surprised you the most about the job?

The range of issues one deals with on a daily basis is amazing. The work includes planning for the long-term sustainability of the academic enterprise; engaging with the immediate needs of students, faculty, staff and other stakeholders; and leading the operations of what is essentially a small city. The breadth of subject matter is fascinating and demanding.

What's the most misunderstood part of the job?

There is still a misperception that university presidents lead institutions that are ivory towers, separate and apart from the world. The universities where I have worked are vibrant, engaged with the world, eager to contribute. The education, fundamental research and applied research performed in universities are directly connected with the life of the broader world.

What's the best part of the job?

As president of Stanford, I have the opportunity to meet so many talented and fascinating people from across the university community — students, faculty, staff, alumni — and hear their stories. Those personal stories make up the story of the university. Our diverse community of people is the foundation of our strength, and I'm fortunate to have the chance as part of my work to meet and learn from so many of them.

When you were a student at McGill, what was your favourite place on or near campus?

Because of its architecture and landscaping, the campus itself is lovely and surprisingly intimate, especially given how large the community is. I also loved the fact that I could feel the urban buzz simply by crossing Sherbrooke Street and walking a few blocks, but also lose myself in nature on Mount Royal. McGill occupies a very special location in a very special city.

What was the most important thing you learned at McGill?

By having the chance to interact with so many smart, talented people of such diverse backgrounds and interests, I learned to appreciate the full tapestry of human experience. I was also inspired by my fellow students' desire to change the world for the better.

I understand that your parents were in the military and that you were often on the move as a child.

How do you think that influenced you?

It gave me an adaptability to change that I think is valuable. Between the ages of six and nine, I went to three different schools in three different countries with two different languages — in Canada, England and Belgium. Change wasn't easy, but it always helped me to grow in new ways, and to welcome change rather than be fearful of it.

There probably aren't too many neuroscientists who have studied physics and philosophy.

What impact has that had on your career and the way you see universities?

Love of learning has always driven my academic work — I have always just started with things that interested me and gone from there. But I do believe a broad education is important preparation for living in a complex and quickly changing world. Most people will have many careers over the course of their lives, and success even within one field requires drawing upon knowledge and skills from many other fields.

What's your favourite university-themed film or TV show?

Chariots of Fire. Camaraderie, challenging tradition, and the quest for greatness — with a great soundtrack to boot.



RILEY STEWART / MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The University of Cambridge will soon do something it has never done before in its more than 800 years of existence—hand the keys to the vice-chancellor's office to a non-Briton.

STEPHEN TOOPE, who served as McGill's dean of law from 1994 to 1999, will become Cambridge's new vice-chancellor in the fall. "I sense that the advisory committee and the university council were actively looking for an outsider," he says. Not a complete outsider, though. Toope earned his PhD from Cambridge in 1987.

After leaving McGill, Toope became the first president of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation before taking on the presidency of UBC. Apart from his current duties at the Munk School of Global Affairs, he is also the president of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

During his law studies at McGill, Toope was the editor-in-chief of the *McGill Law Journal*. An expert on international law and human rights law, he chaired the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. With Toope as its president, UBC focused on improving the student experience, increased its research funding and embarked on a successful \$1.6 billion fundraising campaign.

STEPHEN TOOPE CAMBRIDGE

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing higher education in the 21st century?

Re-establishing a balance between providing a broad, liberal education that prepares people for citizenship and diverse social contributions, and helping students orient towards a rewarding career. The pressure for the last couple of decades has been firmly towards the latter objective, with the former being called into question.

Another challenge is to help students function more effectively in a world that is increasingly inter-cultural. Despite Brexit and the recent U.S. election, I don't think that the trend towards cultural mixing in the Western world is likely to be turned back. All our students will need to work with people from many different cultural backgrounds even if they never leave their home countries. Cultural fluency will be as important as technological literacy.

When you first became a university president, what surprised you the most about the job?

How many times I had to have my picture taken!

Also, the degree to which I had to focus on working with, and pushing back against, our principal funders — governments at the federal and provincial levels. Students often express worry about the intrusion of the corporate world into the decision-making of universities. In my experience, that is mostly a red herring. Corporations, at least in Canada, don't care that much about higher education; the hard part is to get them to engage at all. But governments often fail to recognize the crucial need for autonomy of the university. From time-to-time, they try to apply pressure in ways that are quite disquieting.

What's the most misunderstood part of the job?

How much fun it is to try to move forward a very complicated and crucially important social institution. Hard, yes. Rewarding? Amazingly so.

What's the best part of the job?

The incredible, passionate people that one works with every day: students, faculty members, staff members, alumni, donors, volunteers on the board and elsewhere.

When you were a student at McGill, what was your favourite place on or near campus?

Rue Saint-Laurent for its diversity and vitality.

What was the most important thing you learned at McGill?

Collegiality. I saw it in the faculty members in Law and I experienced it as a student. It makes life so much more rewarding than seeing every interaction as a competition.

The Varsity, a Cambridge student paper, noted your reputation for "theatricality" — a performance of the Eurythmics' 'Sweet Dreams' with the UBC student president was mentioned. Any comment?

In college, I thought that I might become an actor. Instead I became a lawyer and professor — an actor, in other words.

What's your favourite university-themed film or TV show?

Sadly none. Most are either saccharine (*Love Story*) or ridiculously over-the-top (*Paper Chase*). I like how the old Inspector Morse series riffs off life in Oxford, though. The university is a gorgeous backdrop; but the portrayals of university fellows are almost uniformly negative!

You've been quoted as saying, "I despise Twitter, truthfully." Does that still hold?

Yes. Two things worry me. First, the tendency of social media to require instant reaction; the opposite of reflection and considered engagement. Second, the increasing fractionation of society into "followers" of one or another ideological camp. Social media facilitates and exacerbates "tribal" instincts. I know that there are real strengths in social media — for example, allowing groups to self-organize and sharing information quickly. But I think that a strong critical voice is still needed. 



WILL LEW



CARNETS

de voyage

Animé d'un désir de rendre compte des grands conflits géopolitiques de notre temps, c'est surtout comme cinéaste qu'Alexandre Trudeau s'est fait connaître depuis une quinzaine d'années. Dans son premier livre, *Un barbare en Chine nouvelle*, il délaisse la caméra pour nous présenter, au fil de ses rencontres, une société qui le fascine.

Par Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1992)

Chez les Trudeau, le gardien de la tradition se prénomme Alexandre. Cinéaste, journaliste, écrivain voyageur et frère cadet de l'actuel premier ministre du Canada, c'est lui qui vit dans la grande maison familiale, avenue des Pins, et qui représente la famille au conseil de la Fondation Pierre-Elliott Trudeau. Et c'est en marchant dans les traces du père qu'Alexandre Trudeau (B.A. 1997) est parti à la découverte de la Chine.

Avec *Un barbare en Chine nouvelle*, Alexandre Trudeau descend le Yang Tsé, séjourne dans un village près de Chongqing, assiste à un mariage à Shanghai, visite une usine automobile à Anhui et explore une fabrique de soie à Suzhou. Son livre donne voix à une galerie de personnages : fonctionnaires, gens d'affaires, professeurs, médecin, journalier, boucher, rédacteur en chef de revue gaie. Le personnage central est Vivien, une jeune journaliste chinoise. Omniprésente interprète et accompagnatrice, Vivien débat de tout et commente tout ce qu'elle et l'auteur vivent — elle sera également sa première lectrice durant la rédaction. « J'ai eu la main heureuse avec elle, dit-il. C'est elle l'héroïne du livre. Ce n'est pas le barbare que je suis. »

Dans ce récit, Alexandre Trudeau superpose les souvenirs de plusieurs voyages : sa première expédition en Chine en 1990 avec son père; et son deuxième séjour en 2005 avec le sénateur Jacques Hébert pour la réédition de *Deux innocents en Chine rouge*, cosigné avec Pierre Elliott Trudeau en 1961.

Passionné de philosophie, qu'il a étudiée à McGill entre 1993 et 1997, Alexandre Trudeau se décrit comme un « philosophe qui voyage ». « On n'arrive pas en Chine en pensant qu'on comprend comment les choses devraient être. La philosophie, ça consiste à prendre du recul sur nos propres idées, et à essayer de comprendre l'évolution des idées des autres. »

Alexandre Trudeau relève le pari de décrire la Chine telle qu'elle est plutôt que telle que l'on voudrait qu'elle soit. C'est d'ailleurs pourquoi il se refuse, au départ, à condamner le bilan du régime en matière de droits de l'homme — ce qui a choqué certains critiques. « Si on lit plus loin que les deux premiers chapitres, je conclus que la Chine est prête pour autre chose. Pas parce que les Canadiens le pensent, mais parce que les Chinois eux-mêmes sont prêts à faire le pas. »

Alexandre Trudeau a été marqué par la philosophie chinoise. D'abord, le taoïsme, qu'il qualifie d'enivrant. Mais pour comprendre la Chine historique et actuelle, Confucius demeure essentiel, avec sa philosophie de l'ordre politique, familial, social — de l'équilibre. « Bien avant les Occidentaux, les Chinois ont vécu avec des ressources limitées et des contraintes géographiques et démographiques très strictes. Le confucianisme est une philosophie très pertinente pour une planète où l'on vit entassé, où l'on manque de ressources, où la conquête n'est plus une option. »

La philosophie est le point unificateur entre ce livre, les six films documentaires qu'il a produits avec sa maison de production Juju Films et son passage à McGill. « Des années splendides, totalement vouées aux études philosophiques. J'ai rarement quitté le 9e étage du Pavillon Leacock », se rappelle Alexandre Trudeau, qui y a trouvé un petit groupe de passionnés comme lui, et qui a passé deux étés en Allemagne pour en maîtriser suffisamment la langue afin de lire Hegel ou Heidegger en version originale.

À l'occasion, Alexandre Trudeau rend visite à George di Giovanni, professeur au Département de philosophie. « Je dis souvent qu'en séminaire, c'est le groupe qui fait le séminaire, et c'était un groupe remarquable », dit le professeur. « Sacha [Alexandre] était très créatif, et je pouvais m'attendre à recevoir de lui un essai jamais banal. »

L'APPEL DE L'ÉCRITURE

Un barbare en Chine nouvelle est le premier livre d'Alexandre Trudeau, et ce ne sera pas le dernier. « L'écriture se prête tellement mieux au voyage que le cinéma », dit-il. S'il a mis huit ans à écrire ce premier livre, c'est à cause des conflits d'horaire liés à son métier de cinéaste. La faute aussi au syndrome de la page blanche.

« Il m'est arrivé un truc bizarre sur le bateau en descendant le Yang Tsé. J'ai traversé un épisode de déprime, je suis resté enfermé dans ma cabine. Au moment d'écrire, je ne savais pas comment le raconter, ni ce que ça signifiait. Est-ce que c'était moi, est-ce que c'était la Chine ? » Alexandre Trudeau mettra trois ans à résoudre l'énigme, à l'occasion d'un autre voyage en bateau. « J'ai découvert que ce sont les bateaux qui me dépriment. Quand j'ai compris ça, c'est devenu facile et j'ai pu écrire le chapitre, et finir le livre. »

L'aspect le plus frappant du livre d'Alexandre Trudeau, c'est son honnêteté à raconter des épisodes qui ne le mettent pas en valeur. Outre sa déprime sur le Yang Tsé, il y a cet épisode où il renonce à la dernière minute à interviewer une prostituée après toute une série de démarches compliquées.

L'insistance d'Alexandre Trudeau à ne pas se présenter sous son meilleur jour est l'aspect le plus attachant de son livre. « Les lecteurs l'apprécient. C'est une manière de communiquer plus d'intimité, de faire ressentir la confusion, les erreurs du voyageur. Le voyage, ce n'est pas toujours agréable et on n'est pas toujours content. »

Comme en toute chose, il y trouve une motivation philosophique : le taoïsme. « C'est le sous-texte du livre. Le taoïsme nous dit que la sagesse ne vient pas d'avoir raison, du triomphe personnel, des beaux moments, de la découverte. Elle vient des erreurs, des défaites, des moments de faiblesse. C'est la roue qui grince. »

Alexandre Trudeau travaille de front à un premier film de fiction et à une nouvelle chronique de voyage, dont il ne veut absolument pas parler. « Quand je parle trop de ce que je fais, l'énergie d'exécution est dépensée dans la parole plutôt que dans l'acte. »

Quand on le questionne un peu néanmoins, on apprend que son livre racontera l'expérience de ses premiers grands voyages, au début de l'âge adulte. Ça promet : entre Bagdad, le Liberia, le Kosovo et le Darfour, où il a tourné ses principaux films documentaires, Alexandre Trudeau s'est souvent fait peur.

LE GOÛT DU RISQUE

Cette vie aventureuse de cinéaste et de voyageur s'inscrit dans la plus pure tradition de la famille Trudeau. « Mon père me disait tout le temps : « Nous, nous sommes descendants des coureurs des bois; nous sommes des voyageurs; nous sommes des chercheurs. » Le courage, ça fait partie de notre mythologie familiale. »

Si on associe les Trudeau à la politique canadienne, c'est le courage physique qui, selon Alexandre Trudeau, serait le trait unificateur du clan. Il évoque un épisode marquant de la carrière de son père : lorsqu'il a tenu tête à des émeutiers qui lançaient des bouteilles vers l'estrade d'honneur lors du fameux défilé de la Saint-Jean en 1968. Son frère, Justin, a montré ce qu'il avait dans le ventre lors de son combat de boxe contre le sénateur Patrick Brazeau en mars 2012. Lui-même, ancien réserviste des forces armées canadiennes et cinéaste en zone de conflit, s'est souvent exposé au danger – notamment lors de son reportage sur Bagdad sous les bombardements. Et on se rappellera que son frère Michel, un sportif adepte du ski hors-piste, a perdu la vie dans une avalanche en 1998. « Une des choses qui a fait le plus mal à mon père, dit-il, c'est son sentiment de culpabilité de nous avoir enseigné à n'avoir peur de rien. »

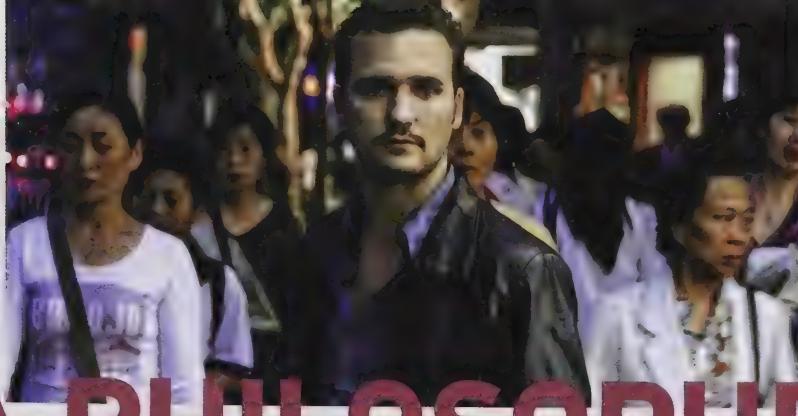
Contrairement à son père et son frère, Alexandre Trudeau n'a jamais été une bête politique. « Comme tous les Trudeau, j'ai un fort sens de la justice, qui s'est traduit dans mon travail de cinéaste, de journaliste. Mais la politique politique, je la regarde de très loin et très peu. Je n'ai pas la tête à ça. Sauf quand je voyage, je ne regarde pas souvent à l'extérieur de mes propres idées. C'est même parfois un problème pour moi. »

Être roi-philosophe, très peu pour lui. Alexandre Trudeau a été, est et sera philosophe pèlerin, ou rien. « Je suis un loup solitaire qui essaie de comprendre le monde, et qui arrive parfois à communiquer quelque chose. »

Jean-Benoît Nadeau est chroniqueur au Devoir et reporter à L'actualité. Il vient de publier The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed (St.Martin's Press).

↓ (De gauche à droite) Alexandre Trudeau (à la chevelure blonde), plus jeune, accompagné de son père et de ses frères en Grèce, en 1983; avec son père sur un chameau en Égypte, en 1980; et avec son père et ses frères lors d'un événement au Centre municipal d'Ottawa, en 1984.





A PHILOSOPHER

in constant motion



ike his famous father, former Canadian prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, **ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU, BA'97**, is a man of the world and a man on the move. "My father always told me: 'We are the descendants of the *coureurs de bois*; we are voyageurs, explorers.'"

As a journalist and filmmaker, Trudeau has pursued stories in Africa and the Middle East. His new book, *Barbarian Lost: Travels in the New China*, recounts months spent travelling in China, from navigating the Yangtze River to touring a car plant in Anhui to visiting a silk factory in Suzhou.

The book follows Trudeau's encounters with a wide range of individuals in China — civil servants, businesspeople, teachers, doctors, day labourers. When thinking about China, Trudeau suggests it helps to have some background in philosophy.

"Philosophy makes you step back from your own assumptions to try to understand how others' ideas evolved." Some reviewers have questioned Trudeau for not taking a more explicit stand on China's human rights record in the book. "If you read beyond the first two chapters, you'll understand what I am really saying," Trudeau responds. "China really is ready for something new. But it's not because Canadians think so. The Chinese are going to take the next step themselves."

Confucianism, he says, with its philosophy of balance and order — in politics, society and family — is the key to understanding China's past and present. "The Chinese learned to live with limited resources and severe geographical and demographic constraints long before Westerners ever faced these problems. Confucianism makes a lot of sense to a crowded planet where resources are short."

Trudeau's high regard for philosophy is a product, in part, of his McGill years. "I completely devoted my life to studying philosophy. I hardly ever left the ninth floor of the Leacock building." He spent two summers in Germany learning German so he could read Hegel and Heidegger in the original. "[He] was very creative. I never got the usual essay from him," says philosophy professor George di Giovanni.

Trudeau is frank about his experiences throughout the book — from a bout of depression on the Yangtze River, to an awkward attempt to interview a prostitute. "It's a way to create intimacy, to let readers feel my confusion and experience my screw-ups."

He also had a philosophical reason for exposing his mishaps: Daoism. "It's the subtext of the book. Daoism teaches us that wisdom doesn't come from being right, or from personal triumph, or beautiful moments or discoveries. It comes from errors, from defects, from moments of weakness."

Trudeau is already working on his next travelogue. The book will be about his first travels as an adult, including places like Baghdad, Liberia, Kosovo and Darfur, where he placed himself in dangerous situations as a documentary filmmaker.

Physical courage is a family trait, he says. He cites a key episode of his father's career, in 1968, when rioters threw bottles at the podium during the St-Jean Baptiste parade and Pierre stood his ground, refusing to flee. His brother Justin attracted plenty of attention when he bested a physically imposing opponent, Senator Patrick Brazeau, in a celebrated 2012 boxing match. Apart from filming in conflict zones, Alexandre was also a reservist in the Canadian Armed Forces. His brother Michel, an accomplished athlete and backcountry ski enthusiast, was killed in an avalanche in 1998.

"One of the things that hurt my father the most was the guilt he felt for teaching us not to be afraid."

Trudeau says he differs from Pierre and Justin in one important respect. "I don't have the head for [politics]," he says. "I'm a lone wolf who tries to understand the world, and every now and again manages to say something about it."

BY JEAN-BENOÎT NADEAU, BA'92
TRANSLATED BY JULIE BARLOW, BA'91

THE WIZARD OF WIRELESS

Before there was a Bill Gates or a Steve Jobs or a Mark Zuckerberg, there was Guglielmo Marconi, the towering tech mogul of his era and the man who largely paved the way for the wireless world we live in today.

"I think it really trivializes Marconi to compare him to today's moguls," says **MARC RABOY**, BSc'68, MA'81, PhD'86, McGill's Beaverbrook Chair in Ethics, Media and Communications. "If anything, they should be compared to him. He was the first truly global figure in communication, the first to think globally about communication."

Raboy is the author of **MARCONI: THE MAN WHO NETWORKED THE WORLD**, a new biography that offers a complex, illuminating mix of popular history and exhaustive scholarship — 863 pages of it.

Marconi is often called the father of wireless — he was the first to use radio waves to communicate. "He really had only one idea: global, long-distance, mobile communication — two-way and connecting any point on Earth with any other point," says Raboy. "Marconi had the vision and the drive and, most of all, the focus to make it happen."

The book has attracted plenty of attention. *Marconi* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for English non-fiction and is in the running for the RBC Taylor Prize. According to *Nature*, "Raboy superbly traces every twist and turn of Marconi's life," while the *Wall Street Journal* describes the book as "one of the year's better biographies."

One of the things that Raboy makes clear is how much of a superstar Marconi was in his day. His 1901 transatlantic transmission, culminating at Newfoundland's Signal Hill, was a groundbreaking scientific feat dressed up as a magic trick. (Marconi, Raboy points out, shared a flair for the dramatic with his contemporary, Harry Houdini.) Marconi's achievement ignited the world's imagination.

Eleven years later, when the *Titanic* sunk, a wireless Marconi transmitter — and Marconi, by extension — was credited with saving hundreds of lives. "There were many moments in his life when he was at the pinnacle," Raboy says. "Then he went on to a higher pinnacle." Winning the Nobel Prize for Physics while still in his thirties, for instance. Or launching the world's first international shortwave broadcast station, Vatican Radio, for his friend, Pope Pius XI (Marconi beat the BBC World Service by a year).



BETTMANN

Still, the cloud over any Marconi biography is bound to be his suspect relationship with Mussolini's fascist regime. It's a relationship, according to Raboy, which accounts for the fact that most Italian scholars have shied away from delving too deeply into the life of a man who is still a national hero. Raboy, for his part, welcomes the ambiguity.

"One side of me would like to find evidence Marconi was plotting to overthrow Mussolini. But I'm okay finding the opposite too. So much at the end of the man's life remains unknown. He met with the pope two days before he died in 1937. He was also scheduled to meet with Mussolini the day he died. No one knows what all that was about."

While he was writing the book, Raboy interviewed Marconi's last surviving child, Elettra Marconi Giovannelli, six times. He hoped to convince her to show him her father's correspondence with her mother, Marconi's second wife. But Elettra, now in her eighties, declined to let anyone see the letters, including an admittedly persistent Raboy. "Let's say I didn't set out to meet her six times."

When they last met, in Rome, two years ago, he told her some parts of the book — her father's tacit support for Mussolini's anti-Semitic policies, for instance — were going to be tough. Raboy added if there was anything in her documents that might put her father in a better light, she should show it to him. So far, she hasn't.

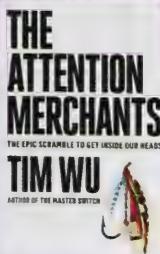
Raboy might not be done with Marconi just yet. He is planning to create a website for "some of the stuff I had to leave out." Not to mention, any new stuff that might turn up. After all, Elettra might get back to him yet.

JOEL YANOFSKY, BA'77, MA'81

↑ McGill professor Marc Raboy's new biography of Guglielmo Marconi portrays him as the first truly global figure in modern communications

THE ATTENTION MERCHANTS

by Tim Wu, BSc'95



Back in the 1830s, newspaper publisher Benjamin H. Day forever altered the media landscape. Instead of selling his newspaper for the standard six cents a copy, Day charged a penny for the *New York Sun*. That penny didn't cover his costs, but Day was looking elsewhere for his revenues — by capturing an audience and delivering it to advertisers.

In his latest book, author and law professor Tim Wu describes Day as one of the first successful attention merchants. "While his readers may have thought themselves his customers, they were in fact his product."

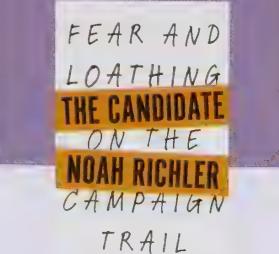
In this wide-ranging book, which covers everything from the history of snake oil salesmen, to the rise of branding, to the game-changing impact of Oprah, *People* and *BuzzFeed* founder (and clickbait pioneer) Jonah Peretti, Wu explores the tight links between marketing and how communications technologies evolve. That interplay has long involved disquieting implications for anyone reading a magazine, watching TV or surfing the net.

The stakes are higher than ever, argues Wu, as advertisers can now track our behaviour online "to a point that would have made a Soviet era spy blush." Your attention is precious, Wu insists. Don't sell it cheaply.

DANIEL MCCABE, BA'89

THE CANDIDATE

by Noah Richler, BA'83



In many ways, Noah Richler was the perfect candidate for the riding of Toronto-St. Paul's in the 2015 federal election: intelligent, articulate, principled and equipped with Richler brand name recognition. Spoiler alert: he lost.

The Candidate: Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail is Richler's meticulous account of his transformation from political naif to NDP candidate. His journey is one of constant discovery and Richler's engaging narrative introduces us to myriad aspects of running a campaign. Along the way, we meet a cast of NDP operatives whose job it is to manage candidates like Richler at every step of the political process from vetting to campaign strategy to damage control.

While dealing with the party brass and funding his campaign on a shoestring, Richler tries to inject some originality and fun into the stodgy world of election campaigns by, for example, producing a video parody of Justin Trudeau's TV ad (which goes viral). But Richler really hits his stride while canvassing door-to-door and meeting constituents — many with sad, poignant stories — which provides perhaps the most powerful incentive for his quest for political office and his sincere desire to make a difference.

ANDREW MAHON

THIS IS A BOOK ABOUT THE KIDS IN THE HALL

by John Semley, BA'08



In 1988, a comedy sketch show debuted on the normally risk-averse CBC — a show that was frequently dark, more than a little weird, and very, very funny. "Toto, I don't think we're in *Danger Bay* anymore," remarked one TV critic.

As John Semley illustrates in his new book, the Kids in the Hall routinely blended together the banal and the surreal with a uniquely irreverent sensibility. The show lasted five years, but has come to be embraced by new generations of comedy fans (and comedians like Nathan Fielder and Tim and Eric), thanks to syndication.

Semley presents an admiring, but frank chronicle of the group's history — one that benefits from the Kids' own candid comments on the factors behind their rise and how their infighting played a major role in splintering them apart.

Semley also tracks their up-and-down post-Kids careers, and while there have been notable individual achievements (Dave Foley's star turn on *NewsRadio*; Mark McKinney's contributions to *Slings & Arrows*; Scott Thompson's work on the legendary *The Larry Sanders Show*), he argues persuasively that the five Kids, bonded by a fiercely competitive group dynamic, do their best work together.

DM

REAL ENEMIES

by Darcy James Argue's Secret Society



The latest release from Brooklyn-based jazz composer Darcy James Argue, BMus'97, and his ensemble certainly doesn't qualify as "easy listening." "Sinister" and "disturbing" would be more apt words to describe *Real Enemies*, a conspiracy theory-inspired album that might have you reaching for a stiff Scotch to steady your nerves. Song titles like "Apocalypse is a Process" and "Never a Straight Answer" sound almost too *au courant* in the wake of recent world events.

Tracks quote from academic works by experts on paranoia and conspiracy theories, while shining a spotlight on the individual members of the Secret Society in solos that put their talents on display (the work of trombonist Mike Fahie, BMus'98, on "Casus Belli" is one highlight).

The Village Voice declared that *Real Enemies*, a Grammy nominee for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album, was a "sonic incarnation of our strange and dangerous times." In an era where fake news plays a troublingly influential role and with the new U.S. president's long record of promoting patently false claims about everything from Barack Obama's birthplace to the links between vaccines and autism, *Real Enemies* is an urgent and unsettling work that deserves your attention. Pour that scotch.

DM

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WEEKEND 2016



↑ Forest ecology professor Jim Fyles led Mac Homecoming guests on a walk in the Morgan Arboretum.

Leacock Luncheon lecturer Dave Carroll of "United Breaks Guitars" fame entertained the crowd with a fully intact guitar.



With Margaret Atwood in town, the McGill Redmen on the gridiron, and reunions of graduates and old friends scheduled across McGill campuses, **HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WEEKEND 2016** was bound to be a memorable one. And this year, nearly 4,000 alumni returned for the festivities on October 27-30, along with about 6,000 prospective students and their families who attended McGill's annual Open House.

This year's Leacock Luncheon mixed music into the traditional comic mayhem, bringing in Halifax singer-songwriter Dave Carroll, whose viral video "United Breaks Guitars" in 2009 was a tongue-in-check, cathartic anthem for millions of angry travellers who've faced airline bureaucracy.

Alumni returned to campus from across the globe, and from reunion classes across generations, including Sol Sternfeld, BEng'46, who celebrated his 70th anniversary since graduating from McGill. "See you in five years!" he said as he left his Engineering reunion.

Here are a few more Homecoming 2016 memories.

Photos by Anthony Branco, Owen Egan and Paul Fournier



→ Margaret Atwood signed books after delivering the Beatty Memorial Lecture and sported a seasonally appropriate skeleton glove.

← Redmen basketball's all-time leading scorer, Denburk Reid, BA'05, was inducted into the McGill Sports Hall of Fame at the annual luncheon.

↖ Médecins Sans Frontières president Joanne Liu, MDCM'91, MMgmt'14, talked about the importance of strong NGOs with Henry Mintzberg, BEng'61 at Management's SEI Homecoming keynote.





← First Peoples' House held the second annual Indigenous Homecoming at the McGill Faculty Club.

↓ Young Alumni met for cocktails at the Galerie MX and heard young entrepreneurs' stories of how they turned their passions into viable careers. From left: Charles Bierbrier, BA'98, Aquil Virani, BA'12, Ali Beloff, BCom'14, Dina Santina, BCom'10, and Guillaume Drouin-Garneau, BCom'13.



↑ Jean McNally, Dip(PTH)'51, brought some stylish McGill memorabilia to the Scarlet Key Leadership Brunch.

← McGill a capella group Effusion belted it out for visitors at the Open-Air Family Breakfast.

SAVE THE DATE!
Homecoming Celebration
Weekend 2017 will be held
October 12-14.

HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA'S RISING STAR

Hockey Night in Canada might be the most scrutinized television show in the whole world, because people care so much about it,” says **DAVID AMBER**, BA’93. As *HNIC*’s new co-host, a lot of that scrutiny is now focused on him.

“The thing about this that is so exciting for me is that people really care — it’s an institution, and it’s been a part of this country for a long time.”

The combination of hockey and TV was, in some ways, inevitable: Amber’s youth was spent playing hockey, and his father was a producer with the CBC. Even at McGill, the call to sports and journalism was present. In his first year, he tried for a spot on the Redman hockey team.

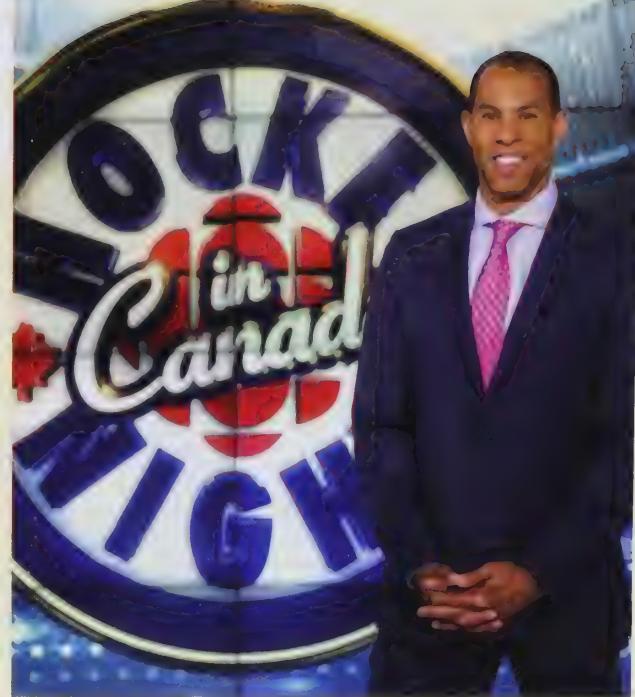
“I didn’t know what I was getting into. I was this 18-year-old kid from Toronto, and there was a bunch of 23-year-old guys just out of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. It didn’t go so well for me,” he recalls with a laugh.

By his final year, Amber had decided on journalism as a career, and started writing for the *McGill Tribune*. After completing his degree in North American studies, he went to the U.S. to pursue a master’s in broadcast journalism and a career as a TV reporter. His first on-air job was at a small local station in Sault Ste. Marie, where he might interview the mayor one day and cover the junior hockey team the next.

From there, he landed at TSN, reporting on the Calgary Flames. For the last five years, he’s been with Sportsnet as rink reporter for *HNIC* and the Toronto-based “local host” for the Alberta market. In between, he’s covered Major League Baseball, the NBA and two different Olympics.

The new job is not without its pressures. *Hockey Night in Canada* had been underperforming for Sportsnet. Amber’s promotion was part of a big shakeup that also involved the departure of former *HNIC* host George Stroumboulopoulos.

↗ *Hockey Night in Canada* co-host David Amber



“My job is to ask good questions of our analysts,” says Amber, “and direct the conversation in a way that helps the viewer enjoy the experience and maybe learn something along the way.”

He says he doesn’t worry about ratings.

“Whenever I feel too much pressure, I try to step back and remember ‘We’re on TV, and we’re talking about hockey. This isn’t brain surgery; lives are not on the line.’”

That’s a remarkably insouciant attitude to a show whose change of theme song some years ago somehow caused more outrage in Canada than Parliament’s recent tweaks to the national anthem. But Amber might have reason for confidence.

“I think the Canadian teams will do much better this year — last year was a historically bad year, it was the first time in 46 years there wasn’t a Canadian team in the playoffs.” Amber suspects that had a lot to do with the drop in ratings.

He sees plenty of reasons for Canadian fans to be excited about the current season — including an ascendant Connor McDavid in Edmonton and a healthy Carey Price in Montreal. In the early nineties, when he was studying at McGill, Edmonton and Calgary were the dominant teams. “Sports can be a cyclical thing.”

So can the Great White North hope the cycle is turning in their favour? Amber plays coy.

“That’s what’s exciting about hockey. You have to keep your eyes open, because things happen at a breakneck pace. It was a really interesting off-season, and now we’re going to find out who the winner of all these trades were.”

In other words: keep your Saturday nights free. 
MARK REYNOLDS



AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SONDRA EDELSTEIN SHERMAN, BSc'76, BSc(FSc)'78, was named 2016 Diabetes Educator of the Year by the Canadian Diabetes Association. The prize recognizes educators who have demonstrated a unique and continuing commitment to the care and education of people affected by diabetes. Sondra is a dietitian and diabetes educator at the Jewish General Hospital.

ARCHITECTURE

GREGORY MORROW, BSc(Arch)'97, BArch'98, was named the inaugural Richard Parker Professor in Metropolitan Growth + Change, a joint appointment at the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business and Faculty of Environmental Design. After graduating from McGill, Greg earned two master's degrees from MIT (in city planning and urban design) and a PhD in urban planning from UCLA.

ROBERT KIRKBRIDE, PhD'03, is now the dean of Parsons School of Constructed Environments, where he is also an associate professor of architecture and design. He recently received the University Distinguished Teaching Award from the institution. He has been the director of studio'patafisico for 25 years and is the spokesperson and a founding trustee for *PreservationWorks*, a non-profit that focuses on the adaptive reuse of Kirkbride Plan Hospitals for

the insane. At Parsons/The New School's Kellen Design Archives, he recently established the Giuseppe Zambonini Archive, a resource for architectural education and design-build practice in New York City in the seventies and eighties. Robert's work can be seen at robertkirkbride.com.

ARTS

JOHN FRY, BA'51, was recently inducted into the Laurentian Ski Hall of Fame at St. Sauveur. He is the chair of the International Skiing History Association and the author of the award-winning *The Story of Modern Skiing* (University Press of New England). He was a member of McGill's Red Birds Ski Club and raced for the University. He was elected to the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame in 1995 and is the recipient of a lifetime achievement award for journalism from the Federation Internationale de Ski.

GARTH STEVENSON, BA'63, MA'65, delivered the keynote speech at the annual conference of the Japanese Association for Canadian Studies in Tokyo, Japan, on September 10. The speech dealt with recent political trends in Canada and especially the election of Justin Trudeau's government. Garth is a professor of political science at Brock University.

PAUL LAURENDEAU, BSc(Arch)'89, BArch'91, is a 2016 recipient of the Governor General's Award in Architecture for his work as the lead architect on the Amphithéâtre Cogeco in Trois-Rivières. The prize jury noted that the cultural facility "has become an icon in the transformation of the riverfront precinct in Trois-Rivières, providing a new identity for the city."

ENN RAUDSEPP, BA'65, PhD'77, is the author of *Vändra* (Lakeshore Press), a novel set against the backdrop of the horrors of the Eastern Front during the Second World War. The book tracks Karl Kingsepp, the son of poor tenant farmers in Estonia, who is initially attracted to the church as a means to escape a bleak future, before being drawn into the fighting that rages around him. Enn is a professor emeritus of journalism at Concordia University.

HENRY SREBRNIK, BA'66, MA'70, a professor of political science at the University of Prince Edward Island, co-edited the anthology *A Vanished Ideology: Essays on the Jewish Communist Movement in the English-Speaking World in the Twentieth Century* (SUNY Press). It is the first book to comprehensively examine the rise and decline of the Jewish Communist movement in the English-speaking world.

RHONA STRASBERG WEINSTEIN, BA'67, MA'69, recently published *Achieving College Dreams: How a University-Charter District Partnership Created an Early College High School* (Oxford University Press). Co-edited with Frank C. Worrell, the book focuses on the California College Preparatory Academy and its efforts to provide underserved low-income and first-generation college youth with an excellent and equitable education. Her previous works include *Reaching Higher: The Power of Expectations in Schooling* (Harvard University Press). A faculty member in the Department of Psychology at University of California, Berkeley, since 1973, Rhona currently serves as professor of the Graduate School.

ALICE BECKER LEHRER, BA'68, BOT'70, recently received a master's degree in Jewish studies from Hebrew College in Boston, where she was also awarded the Friedman Prize for Outstanding Student in Jewish Studies.

MAVIS HIMES, BA'71, is the author of *The Power of Names: Uncovering the Mystery of What We Are Called* (Rowman and Littlefield). The book explores the profound ambivalence that many of us feel toward our names, and the conscious and unconscious impact our names have on our lives. Mavis is a psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist with a private practice in Toronto and a clinical consultant at Wellspring, a cancer centre for patients and their families.

JOHN PARISELLA, MA'71, DipEd'73, who served as chief of staff to former Quebec premiers Robert Bourassa and Daniel Johnson, was made an officer of the Ordre national du Québec. He is currently the executive director of Campus Montreal, which is responsible for the major fundraising campaign at HEC Montréal, Polytechnique Montréal and Université de Montréal.

LAURIER LACROIX, MA'72, a retired professor of museology at Université du Québec à Montréal, was made a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions as an art historian and for his efforts to promote the artistic heritage of Quebec and Canada.

JAMIE SWIFT, BA'72, is the co-author of *The Vimy Trap or, How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Great War (Between the Lines)*. The book explores the shifting narratives around the war and how the noble, birth-of-a-nation narrative that is regularly applied to Canada's participation in the Great War is rather new.

HOWARD SHUBERT, BCom'77, BA'79, is the author of *Architecture on Ice* (McGill-Queen's University Press), a detailed and lavishly illustrated architectural history of skating rinks and hockey arenas in North America. He is the former curator of prints and drawings at the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

OLIVER NICOLOFF, BA'78, is Canada's new ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium. After joining the Department of External Affairs in 1987, he served in postings in Abidjan, Dakar, Tunis, Moscow and Prague. He was the director of the Democracy, Commonwealth and La Francophonie Division from 2009 to 2012, and the European Union and Europe Bilateral and Institutional Relations Division from 2012 to 2016.

JOHN MCCALL MACBAIN, BA'80, LLD'14, was named an officer of the Order of Canada for his achievements as a business leader and for his contributions to academic institutions as a philanthropist. He is the founder of the McCall MacBain Foundation and chaired the 110th anniversary celebrations for the Rhodes Scholarships.

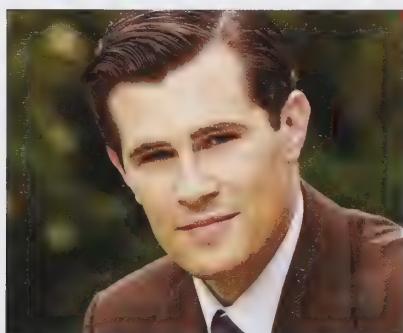
He is also a founder and chairman of the European Climate Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting energy policies to reduce Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and to help Europe play a stronger role in mitigating climate change.

SERGE BOUCHARD, PhD'81, an anthropologist, broadcaster and author known for his work on the cultural history of First Nations communities and French-speaking North America, was made an officer of the Ordre national du Québec.

PETER MACARTHUR, BA'81, is Canada's new ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia. He will continue to be Canada's senior official to the Asia Pacific Economic (APEC) Forum. In his previous position, Peter was the director general for South and Southeast Asia as well as Oceania at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa. His past overseas postings were to Russia, India, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan. His father, the late Dan MacArthur, was a professor at Macdonald Campus and the curator of the Morgan Arboretum. Peter and his wife Karen have two children.

PAUL THOMAS MURPHY, MA'81, is the author of *Pretty Jane and the Viper of Kidbrooke Lane* (Pegasus Books), a book that examines a high-profile Victorian-era murder case that coincided with the dawn of modern forensics. *The Library Journal* describes the book as "a fascinating account of a Victorian murder, complemented by the added strength of a rich description of the period's society and judicial system."

DENIS SAMPSON, PhD'82, recently published *The Found Voice: Writers' Beginnings* (Oxford University Press). The book's essays explore the breakthrough moments in the creative lives of great writers such as Alice Munro, Mavis Gallant and V.S. Naipaul, and investigates how writers achieve a signature style. Other books by Denis include *Young John McGahern: Becoming a Novelist* and *A Migrant Heart*, which deals, in part, with his experiences as a grad student at McGill.



DAVID BERRY, BA'07, has joined the cast of *Outlander*, a British-American television drama based on the popular *Outlander* series of time travel novels. He'll be playing prison governor Lord John Grey on the Emmy-nominated show. The Toronto-born Australian actor received a Logie Award nomination – Australia's version of the Emmys – for his work in *A Place to Call Home*.



CHARLES TAYLOR, BA'52, an emeritus professor of philosophy at McGill, is the first winner of the new Berggruen Prize. One of the world's foremost philosophers, he is the author of such seminal works as *Explanation of Behaviour*, *Sources of the Self*, and *A Secular Age*. He continues to be productive—his latest book, *The Language Animal*, was released last year. Awarded annually to a thinker whose ideas are of broad significance for shaping human self-understanding and the advancement of humanity, the Berggruen Prize is worth \$1 million.

FRANÇOISE BAYLIS, BA'83, the Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Philosophy at Dalhousie University, was named a member of the Order of Canada for her contributions as a champion of health care ethics in Canada, and for creating forums to discuss current medical ethics issues.

MARY ANNE POUTANEN, BA'83, MA'86, is the winner of the 2016 Prix Lionel-Groulx for her book *Beyond Brutal Passions: Prostitution in Early Nineteenth-Century Montreal* (McGill-Queen's University Press). Awarded by the Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française, the prize recognizes the best scholarly book on the history of French America.

ELISE MOSER, BA'84, recently published her third book. *What Milly Did: The Remarkable Pioneer of Plastics Recycling* (Groundwood Books), is her first book for kids and tells the story of Milly Zantow, the woman who created the system of resin codes that made plastic recycling possible. The system is still the global standard. *Kirkus Reviews* described the book as “required reading for young eco-activists.” Elise serves on the board of PEN Canada and is associate editor at Linda Leith Publishing.

JON SHAPIRO, BA'84, has been named a co-chair of Littler's Financial Services Industry Group. Jon has significant experience in employment, labor and employee benefits law and litigation and regularly represents employers before state and federal courts across the U.S. Littler is a global employment and labor law practice, with more than 1,000 attorneys in over 70 offices worldwide.

EMRYS WESTACOTT, MA'84, is the author of *The Wisdom of Frugality* (Princeton University Press), a book that explores why so many philosophers, from Socrates to Thoreau, have advocated frugality and simple living, and why so many people continue to ignore them. He is a professor of philosophy at Alfred University.

RAY BERARD, BA'85, won New Zealand's Ngaio Marsh Award for Best First Novel for *Inside the Black Horse*. The judging panel for the prize described the book as “a lucid and potent portrait of good people and gangsters that is unmistakably Kiwi in flavour and tone.” The crime novel was also long-listed for the Humbert Pumpernickel International Literary Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award.

IAN BURNEY, BA'85, is Canada's new ambassador to Japan. A recipient of the Public Service of Canada's 2014 Outstanding Achievement Award, he served as the country's assistant deputy minister for trade agreements and negotiations before joining the Privy Council Office as assistant secretary to the cabinet for economic and regional development policy in 2015.

KRISTIN CAPP, BA'88, is a photographer whose latest book, *Brasil* (Damiani), is the culmination of eight years of work. The book is a black-and-white photographic exploration of Brazilian landscapes that range from candid urban scenes to pure abstraction.

Kristin has won several awards for her work, including a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in Bellagio, Italy, and the Olympus Europa Foundation Award in Photography.

DAVID WALKER, MA'89, has been appointed the secretary general of the International Association of Deposit Insurers (IADI). The IADI, located at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, was created in 2002 to enhance the effectiveness of deposit insurance systems by promoting international cooperation. It provides a forum for deposit insurers from around the world to gather to share their knowledge and expertise.

HENRY ISRAELI, BA'90, recently published his third collection of poetry, *god's breath hovering across the waters* (Four Way Books). He has also published three books of translation by Albanian poet Luljeta Lleshanaku for New Directions and Bloodaxe (UK). He is an associate professor in the English Department at Drexel University as well as the associate director of Drexel's Certificate in Writing and Publishing program.



JULIE ARTACHO

DOMINIQUE FORTIER, PhD'03, won the 2016 Governor General's Literary Award for French fiction for her most recent novel, *Au péril de la mer*. Her first novel, *Du bon usage des étoiles*, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award in 2009 and is being adapted for the screen by Jean-Marc Vallée (*C.R.A.Z.Y.*, *Dallas Buyers Club*).



NATHAN DINETTE / CANADIAN PRESS

ROBERT LANTOS, BA'70, DLitt'00, was among the honorees at the 2016 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, winning the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award for his contributions to film. As a producer, he has collaborated with many of Canada's finest directors, including Denys Arcand, Jean-Claude Lauzon, Robert Lepage, Atom Egoyan, David Cronenberg and Patricia Rozema. Films he has played a key role in creating, including *The Sweet Hereafter*, *Sunshine*, *Being Julia*, *Eastern Promises* and *Barney's Version*, have been nominated for Golden Globes and Academy Awards.

RUARI NICHOLSON, BA'90, a manager with Public Safety Canada, completed the National Security Programme (NSP) at Canadian Forces College in Toronto. The NSP is a 10-month program that prepares selected military, public service, international and private-sector leaders for future responsibilities within a complex and ambiguous global security environment. Ruari received the Holman Medallion, awarded annually to the NSP student who best exemplifies excellence in strategic thought and leadership.

NOBORU HIROI, PhD'91, received the 2016 CINP Lilly Neuroscience Basic Research Award at the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology World Congress in Seoul in July. He is a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and neuroscience at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, where his research focuses on the genetic basis of nicotine dependence.

ADAM DODEK, BA'92, was promoted to full professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. His co-edited collection (with Alice Woolley) *In Search of the Ethical Lawyer: Stories from the Canadian Legal Profession*, was published by UBC Press in 2016, and the second edition of *The Canadian Constitution* was published by Dundurn in October. It contains a foreword by Governor General (and former McGill principal) David Johnston, LLD '00, and an introduction by Supreme Court of Canada chief justice Beverley McLachlin, LLD'16.

JAMES STEWART, BA'92, BEd'94, has signed a deal to publish his first book with Dundurn Press. The non-fiction work, tentatively titled *Being Prime Minister*, will examine the behind-the-scenes lives of Canada's leaders. The book is expected to be published in the spring of 2018. James continues to teach Canadian history at Bishop Strachan School in Toronto and writes op-ed pieces for various newspapers across the country.

ELEE KRALJII GARDNER, BA'93, recently published *Serpentine Loop* (Anvil Press), a collection of poems that often begin with a word from skating before pushing off to another topic. Elee founded and directs Thursdays Writing Collective, a program of free drop-in creative writing classes in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.



DAVID BEZMOZGIS, BA'96, was one of three McGill graduates to receive prizes at the Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish literature. He earned the Vine Award for Fiction for his novel *The Betrayers*. **DANIEL GOODWIN**, BA'91, earned the Vine Award for Poetry for *Catullus's Soldiers*. The Vine Award for Young Adult /Children's Literature went to **EMIL SHER**, BA'81, for *Young Man with Camera*. In all, the Koffler Centre of the Arts announced prize winners in five categories. Each winner received \$10,000.

ALEXANDER BOLDIZAR, BA'94, is the author of *The Ugly* (Brooklyn Arts Press), a novel about a 300-pound boulder-throwing mountain man from Siberia who travels to Harvard Law School to pick up the legal skills he'll need to reclaim his tribal homeland. The comedic tale borrows a few elements from Alexander's own life (he has both thrown boulders and studied law at Harvard). He has been an art gallery director in Bali, a porter in the High Arctic, a police-abuse watchdog in New York City and a gold medalist in jiu jitsu at the Pan American Championships.

JENNIFER GASOI, BA'96, is a Grammy Award-winning children's performer and recording artist. Her latest project is *Blue and Red Make Purple*, a book and CD collaboration with illustrator Steve Adams. The CD features 12 songs that meld a variety of different styles, including calypso, bluegrass, Dixieland swing and klezmer. The playful book includes notes that highlight the history of each musical genre and the instruments used in the music. For more information, visit jennifergasoicom.

DOUGLAS SCOTT PROUDFOOT, MA'96, is Canada's new representative to the Palestinian Authority. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1987 and has been the director of the Afghanistan Task Force and the Sudan Task Force. Most recently, he served as minister-counsellor at the High Commission in London, responsible for political and public affairs.

LAURE WARIDEL, BA'96, a co-founder of the environmental group Équiterre, and the executive director of the Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en opérationnalisation du développement durable at Polytechnique Montréal, has been made a knight of the Ordre national du Québec.

ULRIC SHANNON, BA'97, is Canada's new consul general in Istanbul. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1999 and is a former director of its media relations office. Abroad, he has served as a political and public affairs officer in Cairo, a senior political officer in Ramallah and first secretary in Islamabad. He was also Canada's first representative to the Syrian opposition.

JOEL ABRAMSON, BA'04, is the CEO of Fully Managed, a technology management services company with offices in Vancouver and Edmonton. He was named to *Business in Vancouver's* 2016 Forty Under 40, which celebrates the achievements of young entrepreneurs, executives and professionals in B.C.

LIZ ALPERN, BA'06, is the co-author of *The Gelfite Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods* (Flatiron Books). The book focuses on Ashkenazi cuisine, reimagining old dishes in sometimes surprising ways (Kimchi Stuffed Cabbage and Sour Dill Martinis). Liz curates and cooks for pop-up events and gives lectures and hands-on classes around the world about food and culture. She has been featured in *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 list for food and wine.

MISCHA KAPLAN, BA'06, was included in the *Ottawa Business Journal's* annual 40 Under 40 list. Mischa owns Rainbow Foods, a chain of natural food stores in Ottawa.

JESSICA PALMER, BA'06, an associate of the Bridgewater-based law firm Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., has been included in the New Jersey Rising Stars 2016 Edition. Only two-and-a-half percent of New Jersey attorneys are given this honor, which recognizes lawyers aged 40 and under, or who have

been practicing for fewer than 10 years. She was first included in 2014, and has been selected every year since. Her practice focuses on environmental law and complex litigation.

RANKA PETROVIC, BA'07, recently received second prize in the *Antigonish Review's* Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest. Her poetry has appeared in several publications, including *Branch*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *The Malahat Review* and *The Fiddlehead*. Her work was longlisted for the 2012 and 2015 CBC Poetry Prize and shortlisted for the 2013 Gwendolyn MacEwen Poetry Competition. She is working on a manuscript inspired by the life and work of Austrian painter Gustav Klimt.

IAN WHITTINGTON, MA'07, PhD'13, is an assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where he specializes in 20th century British and Anglophone literature and culture. He was part of the team that recently worked on the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, an online resource designed to make studying the Modernist period easier for students and researchers.

LEON GREK, BA'08, is the recipient of a 2016 Rome Prize Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome. The prizes support independent work in the arts and humanities and involve a stipend, workspace and room and board at the academy's 11-acre campus in Rome. Leon is a PhD candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature at Princeton University.

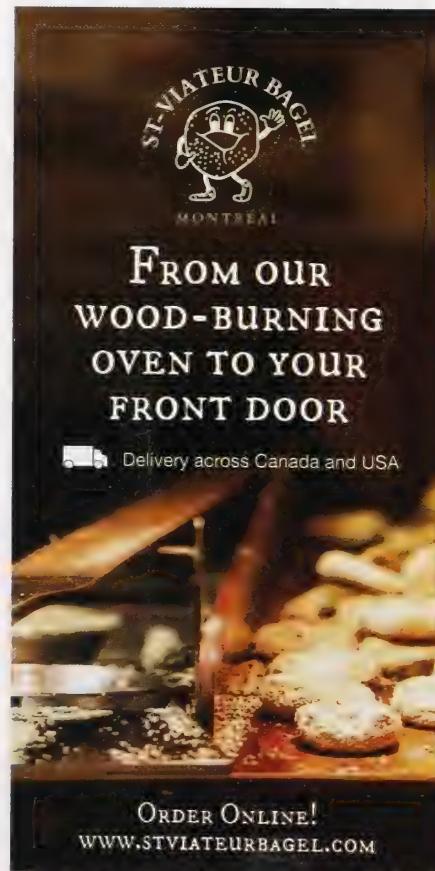
JULIA EDELMAN, BA'15, recently published *Love Voltaire Us Apart* (Icon Books), a spoof relationship guide with a philosophical edge, made up of philosophers' love letters, advice columns and breakup letters. The book is based on her *New Yorker* article, "Excerpts from Philosophers' Breakup Letters Throughout History." Julia's work has also appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Cosmopolitan* and *McSweeney's*.

ARTS & SCIENCE

TIFFANY SURAGH, BA&Sc'10, was the first person in her family to graduate from university. After earning her undergraduate degree at McGill, Tiffany completed a master's degree in public health at Emory University. She now works as a health scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she focuses on the safety monitoring of U.S. vaccines. As a first generation student, Tiffany faced many challenges, and she credits McGill for supporting her both financially and through the world-class education she received.

CONTINUING STUDIES

CHRISTINE LENGVARI, DPA'78, is the chair of a newly formed Advisory Council on Women and Leadership at Concordia University. In addition to her participation in the tax policy group at the Conference for Advanced Life Underwriting (CALU), she was recently





KENNETH BENTLEY, DDS'58, MDCM'62, (left) received the Canadian Dental Association's 2016 Medal of Honour. It is the CDA's highest honour and recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the profession. A professor emeritus of dentistry at McGill, he served as both McGill's dean of dentistry and as the Montreal General Hospital's dental surgeon-in-chief. A past president of the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry, he was also the first dentist in Canada to become the head of the attending staff of a major teaching hospital.

appointed to CALU's government relations committee. In 2015, at the request of the board of governors at St. Mary's Hospital, she set up and chairs an honorary council to support and advise the board.

CHRISTIAN ONG TONE, DPA'80, is a new partner with the accounting and business advisory firm FL Fuller Landau LLP. He brings a mix of audit experience, business consulting experience and a solid tax background developed over the course of 35 years in the industry.

LILI-ANNA PEREŠA, DipMgmt'97, is the president and executive director of Centraide of Greater Montreal. She was recently appointed by the federal government to serve on the Independent Advisory Board for Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments.

DENTISTRY

BRUCE WARD, DDS'76, received the Honoured Member Award from the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia (CDSBC) earlier this year. This is the college's highest award and recognizes Bruce's remarkable contributions to CDSBC over the years. He has served on several committees, including ethics, practice standards, discipline and the Regulatory Review Task Force. He was also an integral part of the working group that developed new guidelines to assist B.C. dentists in the delivery of safe and effective minimal and moderate sedation. He was the director of the Eastside Walk-In Dental Clinic and continues to volunteer there.

NOAH ZACHARIN, BSc 81, DDS'83, retired from dentistry in 2015 to devote himself to writing and music. His most recent album, *Strange Rider*, is his seventh recording. His work has received airplay on both CBC Radio and Radio-Canada and he has opened shows for the likes of Odetta, David Lindley, Alex de Grassi and Fairport Convention. When he practiced dentistry, his patients included inmates at Archambault Institution, a federal penitentiary. For more information, visit noahsong.com

EDUCATION

GERALD CUTTING, MEd'79, is the president of the Townshippers' Association and the former director general of Champlain Regional College. He was one of three recipients of the Quebec Community Groups Network's 2016 Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award. The prize recognizes his work as an eloquent spokesperson for the English-speaking community during public hearings on legislation to reform both health care (Bill 10) and education (Bill 86) in Quebec.

JAMIE KOMPON, BEd'89, recently joined the Winnipeg Jets as an assistant coach. For the past two years, he was the head coach and general manager of the WHL's Portland Winterhawks, leading the team to the playoffs in both seasons. He had been an assistant coach for the Chicago Blackhawks and the Los Angeles Kings and was part of Stanley Cup winning efforts for both teams.

CHRISTIE STEPHENSON, MEd'97, is the director of the new Peter P. Dhillon Centre for Business Ethics at the University of British Columbia. She spent the previous 15 years involved in socially responsible and impact investing, having worked as an analyst at Sustainalytics (then Jantzi Research), as the manager of environmental, social and governance evaluations at NEI Investments (Ethical Funds), and as the Western Canadian lead of Purpose Capital, where she continues to serve as a senior advisor.



KIM ST-PIERRE, BEd'05, was recently inducted into the Quebec Sports Hall of Fame. A longtime goaltender for the Canadian women's national hockey team, she is a three-time Olympic gold medalist and a five-time International Ice Hockey Federation world champion. She also won the Canadian Women's Hockey League's Clarkson Cup in 2009 as a member of the Montreal Stars.



MIKE BABCOCK, BEd'86, LLB'13, coached Team Canada to victory at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey. The coach of the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs is now the only coach in hockey who has won the World Cup, the Stanley Cup, the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship and an Olympic gold medal (he has led Canada to two Olympic gold medals). He wore his lucky McGill tie in the World Cup clinching game against Team Europe.

PHIL CUTLER, BEd'13, and **ROBERTO CIPRIANI**, BSc'08, are the co-founders of GradeSlam, an online chat-based tutoring organization that recently attracted a \$1.6 million investment from Anges Québec, a network of private investors that supports innovative Quebec companies with high growth potential. GradeSlam offers affordable tutoring services to English, French and Spanish-speaking students from grade 5 up to university.

ENGINEERING

MOHAN MUNASINGHE, PhD'73, received the Energy Globe Award in Vienna this spring from the Energy Globe Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to sustainability. Mohan is the founder and chair of the Munasinghe Institute for Development. He was the vice chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. vice-president Al Gore.

WIENER KERNISAN, MEng'76, is the new president of Arianespace, Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of Arianespace, an international space transportation services company that has placed more than 500 satellites into orbit. Wiener will be responsible for customer, industry and governmental relations and will be directly engaged in sales activities across the U.S. and Canada.

L. PIERRE DE ROCHEMONT, BSc'83, MEng'86, is the founder and general manager of the Austin, Texas-based Frontier NanoSystems, LLC, a company that uses nanotechnology to

manufacture high performance materials including metals/alloys/superalloys, ceramics/electroceramics and semiconductors. The company was chosen as one of *Red Herring's* Top 100 Most Disruptive Startup Companies in North America.

PAT PIPERNI, BEng'84, has been appointed associate professor of mechanical & aeronautical engineering at Clarkson University. Before joining Clarkson, he was project manager for multidisciplinary design optimization in the advanced design department at Bombardier Aerospace.

LUC NOISEUX, BEng'91, is the new senior vice president and chief technology and strategy officer for Cogeco Inc. He will be responsible for Cogeco's development of emerging technology section and deployment plans, and for the corporate strategy and strategic planning process.

JEAN-PHILIPPE DROUIN, BEng'07, was named Young Energy Professional of the Year by the Association of Energy Engineers. The award is granted annually to individuals 35 years of age or younger to recognize outstanding contributions to the energy profession and to the community. Jean-Philippe is a design engineer with Ecosystem Energy Services. He has been responsible for leading multi-million-dollar projects and proposals in Canada and the U.S., including the Mount Sinai Brooklyn Hospital project, an innovative cogeneration and steam-to-hot-water conversion that won AEE's 2014 Energy Project of the Year Award for Region 1.

LAW

NORTON SEGAL, BA'62, MA'65, BCL'67, received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from Governor General David Johnston at a ceremony at Rideau Hall in April. The honour recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields. He was a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

LEWIS N. KLAR, BA'67, BCL'70, LLM'73, is the 2016 recipient of UC Berkeley Law School's John G. Fleming Award in Torts. He delivered the fourth Fleming Lecture at Berkeley Law on October 26. He is the author of *Tort Law*, fifth edition, and a co-author of *Canadian Tort Law: Cases, Notes & Materials*, 14th edition. A special edition of the *Alberta Law Review* was published in his honour. He was a contributor to the 10th edition of *Fleming's The Law of Torts* and to *Torts Tomorrow: A Tribute to John Fleming*. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and his work has been cited hundreds of times by the Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

IAN M. SOLLOWAY, BA'70, BCL'73, the chair of the English-speaking section of the Bar of Montreal, was honoured on June 21 with the 2016 D'Arcy McGee National Assembly Citizenship Medal in recognition of "his outstanding achievement in community involvement."

JULIA BENEZET, MA'76, LLB'79, is the author of *The Journey of Not Knowing: How 21st-Century Leaders Can Chart a Course Where There Is None* (Morton Hill Press). The book focuses on one of the most elusive, but essential leadership requirements for the future: navigating the unknown. Julia built Amazon's first global real estate organization, and led the "Challenges of Leadership" program for executives at the Harvard Graduate School of Design for 10 years. She is the founder of Business Growth Consulting, LLC, and the Journey of Not Knowing, LLC, where she has coached executives from virtually every industry.



GREGOIRE WEBBER, BCL/LLB'03, is taking a leave of absence from Queen's University, where he is Canada Research Chair in Public Law and Philosophy of Law, to serve as legal affairs advisor to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. He will provide advice to the minister and to the Department of Justice as they contend with a wide range of issues, including the legalization of marijuana and a review of how Indigenous Canadians are impacted by the justice system.

MARYSE BERTRAND, BCL'80, recently joined Borden Ladner Gervais LLP as a strategic advisor. The former general counsel and vice-president for real estate services, legal services and corporate secretary at CBC/Radio-Canada, her practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, risk management and governance. She was awarded the distinction of *Advocatus Emeritus* by the Quebec Bar in 2007 in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the practice of law.

JOHN HOLMES, BA'78, LLB'82, is Canada's new ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines. He has previously served as Canada's ambassador to Jordan, Indonesia and, most recently, Turkey. Since joining the Department of External Affairs in 1982, he has held a number of positions, including director general of the Middle East Bureau and director of the United Nations, Human Rights and Economic Law Division.

PETER KIRBY, BCL'83, LLB'85, was awarded the prize for Best Novel at the 2016 Arthur Ellis Awards for crime writing in Canada. He won the award for *Open Season*, the latest in his series of crime novels featuring detective inspector Luc Vanier. Peter is a partner at Fasken Martineau where his practice covers the spectrum of issues that arise when goods and services are traded across borders, including trade and regulatory compliance issues, trade agreements, international commercial arbitration and investor-state arbitration, customs law and export and import controls.

DAVID L. POSEL, BCom'76, DPA'78, BCL'84, is a new partner with the accounting and business advisory firm FL Fuller Landau LLP. He brings close to 40 years of experience in income tax practice. He specializes in U.S. tax laws relative to Canadians and U.S. estate planning as it affects Canadian citizens in the U.S. and U.S. residents in Canada.

CHRIS COOTER, BCL'86, LLB'86, is Canada's new ambassador to the Republic of Turkey. He has held several senior positions in External Affairs and International Trade Canada, including deputy permanent representative to the Joint Delegation of Canada to NATO, high commissioner to Nigeria and director general responsible for the amalgamation of the Canadian International Development Agency and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

WILLIAM B. ROSENBERG, BA'84, BCL'88, LLB'88, is the chair of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. In the past year, he has focused on several initiatives, including an expansion of the section's global network of business law professionals, and improving the section's member benefits and services.

MASUD HUSAIN, LLB'91, is Canada's new ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. He served as minister-counsellor and political coordinator in the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, before becoming the executive director of the Criminal, Security and Diplomatic Law Division for External Affairs and International Trade Canada, a position he held from 2013 to 2016.

DAVID STERNS, BA'87, BCL'91, LLB'91, became the new president of the Ontario Bar Association in August. The Toronto-based lawyer is a partner in the litigation group at Sotos LLP, where he focuses on class actions and commercial disputes.

LARRY MARKOWITZ, BCom'91, BCL/LLB'95, was inaugurated as president of the Lord Reading Law Society (LRLS) on May 25. Founded in 1948, the LRLS serves as the collective voice of Jewish jurists in Quebec, advocates for human rights, and holds a series of dinners throughout the year that feature distinguished guests from the bench, the bar and the worlds of business and politics.



ADELLE BLACKETT, BCL/LLB'94, was selected as one of the Trudeau Foundation's five new fellows for 2016. A professor of law at McGill, she is an expert on social justice, particularly domestic and migrant workers' rights. As a Trudeau Fellow, she will explore the role of transnational labour law in a globally interconnected world. Biology professor **CATHERINE POTVIN** was also chosen as a 2016 Trudeau Fellow. An authority on tropical rainforest conservation, her research seeks to foster cross-cultural learning on climate change with the goal of ensuring that Indigenous peoples of Canada become full partners in the country's transition to a low-carbon economy and sustainable society.



LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES

BRIAN CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, MLIS'94, recently published a complete edition of the solo piano music of Calixa Lavallée, the composer of "O Canada." *Calixa Lavallée (1842-1891) : L'oeuvre pour piano seul / The Complete Works for Solo Piano*, was published in August by The Avondale Press. Brian is the author of *Anthems and Minstrel Shows: The Life and Times of Calixa Lavallée, 1842-1891* (McGill-Queen's University Press). He is a senior lecturer in the Department of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

ROMAN S. PANCHYSHYN, BA'86, MLIS'97, was appointed to the rank of associate professor with tenure, holding the position of catalog librarian at Kent State University Libraries. He also serves as chair of the Database Management and Standards Committee (DMSC) of the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK) consortium. DMSC maintains quality standards and creates metadata policies and procedures for the statewide OhioLINK Central Catalog, which encompasses the holdings of 93 academic libraries in Ohio.

MANAGEMENT

RICHARD M. WISE, BCom'62, is the recipient of the 2016 Thomas R. Porter Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA) in the United States. The award is presented each year to the NACVA member who has demonstrated exemplary character, leadership, and noteworthy contributions to NACVA and the industry.

GUILLERMO MURCHISON, BCom'63, is the CEO of Murchison, a major shipping and port operation business in Argentina. He is featured in the Harvard Business School's Creating Emerging Markets (CEM) project, which includes interviews with individuals who have played key business leadership roles in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

PATRICK HEALY, BCL'81, is a judge who was recently appointed to the Quebec Court of Appeal, the highest court in the province. A former professor of law at McGill, he continues to teach criminal law at the University as a course lecturer. He served as a judge on the Court of Quebec from 2007 to 2016.

ROBERT VALDMANIS, LLB'94, was the inaugural speaker at the Royal Oceania Institute, an independent Tongan think tank advancing fact-based research and public policy analysis. He spoke about conflict resolution and problem solving. Robert is an adjunct professor of public affairs strategy at Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) and a public affairs strategy consultant based in Montreal. He sponsors the RVC Inc. Public Affairs Excellence Award, given to the SCPA's top student each year.

GREG RICKFORD, BCL/LLB'05, recently joined Maawandoon as its new strategic advisor. He had served as the minister of natural resources, the minister of state for science & technology and minister of state for the federal economic development initiative for Northern Ontario in the Canadian government while it was led by Stephen Harper. Maawandoon is a national firm specializing in Indigenous community engagement.

PAUL MELHUS, MBA'83, is the founder and CEO of ToursByLocals, a company that brings together travellers and private tour guides in 148 different countries. The company's network includes more than 17 guides working across the globe and it has served more than 500,000 travellers. For more information, visit toursbylocals.com.

EMILIO B. IMBRIGLIO, MBA'85, was appointed chair of Grant Thornton International Ltd.'s budget committee in January. He is also a member of the organization's leadership committee and board of governors. Grant Thornton is one of the world's largest professional services network of independent accounting and consulting member firms and represents 42,000 professionals worldwide. Emilio is the president and CEO of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, an accounting firm with more than 2,300 professionals spread out over 100 offices in Quebec and the regions of Ottawa and Edmundston. He is also a member of the Telus Montreal Community Board, the board of directors of Société Générale au Canada, the board of directors of Les amis de la montagne, and the Fondation du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) Capital Campaign Cabinet.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS BUSSIÈRES, MBA'93, received the Canadian Pharmacists Association's CPhA International Leadership Award in June. This award recognizes a significant contribution to the advancement of the profession of pharmacy within an international context. The director of the Department of Pharmacy at CHU Sainte-Justine and a clinical professor at Université de Montréal, he created an international pharmacy practice research unit in 1996 and has trained more than 150 students from abroad. He has also been involved in several humanitarian initiatives in Haiti.



PAUL MCGANN, MDCM'81, and two of his colleagues at the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) were recently named U.S. Federal Employees of the Year at the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals ceremony. The CMS team organized Partnership for Patients, a four-year initiative that involved 3,700 hospitals sharing their best practices, and aimed at reducing incidences of hospital-acquired conditions. The program has helped save nearly 87,000 lives.

JOSIE MCKOY, BCom'96, is a new partner with the accounting and business advisory firm FL Fuller Landau LLP. She has expertise in assisting small and medium-sized businesses in industries such as professional services, leisure, manufacturing, importing and real estate with accounting, auditing, tax assessment analysis and personal tax planning.

STEVE LURIE, MMgmt'02, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Toronto branch, was named a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions as a leading advocate and administrator in the field of mental health care.

JEAN-MICHEL LAVOIE, MBA'09, has been promoted to assistant vice-president, product development, group benefits, at Sun Life Financial. He joined the company in 2013 as product director for pharmaceutical benefits after many years in the pharmaceutical industry, including working as a pharmacist and as a brand manager for Pfizer Canada.

PIERRE CHOQUETTE, EMBA'13, recently joined Edelman Montreal, part of the global communications marketing firm Edelman, as its new vice president public affairs. Previously, he co-founded Mondea, a communication and business strategy firm, and was the senior director of public affairs for AbitibiBowater Canada (now Resolute Forest Products). He has been the president of the Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec section) since April 2016.

MEDICINE

DORIS A. HOWELL, MDCM'49, is an emeritus professor of medicine at the University California, San Diego. She was the first woman in the U.S. to chair a medical school pediatric department in 1963, and was the driving force behind the creation of the San Diego Hospice and the Institute for Palliative Medicine in 1977. The California State University Institute for Palliative Care has created the Doris A. Howell MD, Award for Advancing Palliative Care to honour her contributions to the field of palliative care.

COLIN E. FORBES, BSc'51, MDCM'55, recently published *From The Bottom of My Heart*, a memoir about the Jamaican-Canadian doctor's life, including his studies at McGill, his experiences as a porter for Canadian Pacific Railway, and a long medical career that has seen him working at hospitals and clinics on four continents. The Kindle edition is available through Amazon.ca.

R. CLIFTON WAY, MDCM'58, recently published his autobiography, *A Well-Traveled Way: An Autobiography*. The book chronicles his early life in Newfoundland and how he lost both his parents in childhood and the role that the Grenfell Mission played in making it possible for him to pursue his university degrees. After graduating from McGill, he returned to Newfoundland as a pediatric cardiologist, before ending his career at McMaster University. The book is available through Amazon.ca.

MARGARET (RENNIE) BLANK, BSc(N)'74, is now a textile artist living and working in rural Central Alberta. Her three part installation, *Mark on the Body: Honouring Those Who Live with Type 1 Diabetes*, was recently exhibited at the Lacombe Memorial Centre in Lacombe, Alberta. To find out more about the MOB Project, visit markonthebody.blogspot.ca or contact Margaret at margblank@xplornet.ca.

MARK LEVINE, MDCM'76, the Buffet Taylor Chair in Breast Cancer Research at McMaster University and the director of the Ontario Clinical Oncology Group, was named a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions as an oncologist, researcher and clinician who has developed a number of new treatment regimens that have become the Canadian standard in clinical practice.



LUC JOBIN, DPA'82, became president and CEO of CN last July. He joined the company in 2009 as executive vice-president and chief financial officer. Prior to CN, he was the executive vice-president of Power Corporation for close to five years, overseeing the company's portfolio of diversified investments. CN is North America's only transcontinental railroad, employing more than 23,000 people in 2015 and earning \$12.6 billion in revenue.



GUSTAVO TURECKI, PhD'99, is the director of the McGill Group for Suicide Studies and the co-director of the Douglas-Bell Canada Brain Bank. He is the 2016 recipient of the Prix Acfas Leo-Pariseau. Awarded by the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences (Acfas), the prize recognizes outstanding work in the biological and health sciences. He was recognized for his cutting-edge approach to our understanding of the causes of suicide, particularly the genetic and epigenetic factors that may be involved. He is the chair of McGill's Department of Psychiatry.

GERALD BATIST, MDCM'77, a clinical oncologist and the director of the Jewish General Hospital's Segal Cancer Centre, was named a member of the Order of Canada and a knight of the Ordre national du Québec for his advances in applying personalized medicine to cancer treatment, and for his leadership in creating research networks in his field.

PAMELA J. K. COATES, MDCM'78, received the W. T. Aikins Award for Excellence in Course/Program Development and Coordination from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine. The award recognizes her leadership as the founding director of the Mississauga Academy of Medicine. Previously, she served as the chief of pediatrics at the Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga and was the medical director of its pediatric program.

ERNESTO SCHIFFRIN, PhD'80, is the 2016 recipient of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine's Margolese National Heart Disorders Prize. A Canada Research Chair in Hypertension and Vascular Research at McGill and the Jewish General Hospital's physician-in-chief, he was recognized for advancing our understanding of high blood pressure's effects on the vascular system. His McGill medical colleague **MICHAEL MEANEY** received the 2016 Margolese National Brain Disorders Prize for his landmark work on how epigenetic changes affect neurodevelopment.

PHILIPPE GROS, PhD'83, professor in McGill's Department of Biochemistry, was named an officer of the Order of Canada for his pioneering use of molecular genetics to identify risk factors in a range of conditions, including infectious diseases and cancer, and for his leadership in the health sciences.

MICHEL LACERTE, MDCM'83, is the recipient of the Ontario Bar Association's 2016 Ron Ellis Award for Excellence in Workers' Compensation Law. An associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Western University, his presentations at the OBA's annual Workers' Compensation Continuing Professional Development Program are among the most popular in the program's history. In 2006, he co-authored the first Canadian textbook in French on the topic of medicolegal expertise. The Ellis award is presented to individuals who demonstrate leadership in the development of workers' compensation law.

GORDON BALTUCH, MDCM'86, PhD'95, is a professor of neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania and the director of the Penn Center for Functional and Restorative Neurosurgery. In 2015, he performed his 1,000th deep brain stimulation procedure, a complex form of brain surgery that improves many of the motor symptoms affected by Parkinson's disease.

ANDRES LOZANO, PhD'89, a Canada Research Chair in Neuroscience at the University of Toronto, was named an officer of the Order of Canada for his contributions as a neurosurgeon who helped establish deep brain stimulation as a globally recognized treatment for movement disorders.

MUSIC

ALDO MAZZA, BMus'79, co-hosted Celebrating Women in Percussion last February, a series of events that featured performances, clinics, and masterclasses with artists such as Cherisse Osei and Lindsay Artkop. Aldo collaborated with New York University's Steinhardt Percussion Studies Program (directed by Jonathan Haas) and Hit Like a Girl (directed by David Levine). Aldo is the director of KoSA, an organization that hosts musical events, camps, and workshops.

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COREEN MORSINK, BMus'94, is a composer specializing in the creation of new music based on Ancient Greek sources. Her organ piece ...catharsis... was premiered by **KEVIN KOMISARUK**, BMus'94, MMus'96, DMus'03, as part of the Recital Series of the American Guild of Organists at Christ Church Cathedral Indianapolis last April. Her composition "Play Songs" had its world premiere on May 11 at The Forge in London, U.K., and was performed by the Rarescale Trio. Details of the events can be found at: https://uk.patronbase.com/_Forge/Productions/SM/Performances

SIENNA DAHLEN, BMus'97, recently released her new album *Ice Age Paradise*. The album chronicles a difficult period in the singer's life involving the loss of her mother and the end of a romantic relationship. Her collaboration with **MIKE RUD**, BMus'92, MMus'98, on the CD *Notes On Montréal* received the Juno Award for Vocal Jazz Album in 2014. Sienna was the featured singer on the soundtrack for the 2007 Oscar-winning animated short, *The Danish Poet*.

JORDAN DE SOUZA, BMus'09, MMus'11, will become the kapellmeister of the Komische Oper Berlin beginning with the start of their 2017/18 season. In his first season as kapellmeister, he will conduct several repertoire pieces, direct one new production and lead an orchestra concert.

JEFFREY DYRDA, BMus'09, is a violinist with the Rolston String Quartet, which won the 2016 Banff International String Quartet Competition. As the first prize laureates, the quartet will begin a three-year career development program that involves tours throughout Europe and North America, the recording of an album and \$25,000 in cash. The group also earned first place at the 2016 Chamber Music Yellow Spring Competition and earned prizes at the M-Prize and Bordeaux International String Quartet Competitions.

CHRIS LEWIS, BMus'09, released his latest album *British Music for Harpsichord* in April. He signed with Naxos, the largest classical music label in the world, in 2012, and has now released three albums, with a fourth on its way. Chris is currently completing his PhD at the University of Southampton and his dissertation is titled "The Modern British Harpsichord."

DANA GORZELANY-MOSTAK, PhD'13, is the creator and co-editor of *Trax on the Trail*, a research project and website that focuses on American presidential campaign music and the role it plays in forming candidate identity. The site has been covered by a range of media, including *The Guardian*, *Slate* and *Variety*. Dana is an assistant professor of music at Georgia College and is collaborating with the digital education staff at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to create lesson plans for high school students. Find out more at traxonthetrail.com.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

DAVID GURETZKI, PhD'06, is the author of *An Explorer's Guide to Karl Barth* (InterVarsity Press), an introductory guidebook to the life and writings of one of the 20th century's most significant theologians. David is a professor of theology, church and public life at Briercrest College and Seminary in Caronport, Saskatchewan.



CATHERINE FICHTEN, BSc'68, PhD'78, is a professor of psychology at Dawson College and the 2016 recipient of the Prix Acfas Denise-Barbeau. Awarded by Acfas, the prize recognizes outstanding research done by a CEGEP professor. She is the co-director of the Adaptech Research Network, a multidisciplinary effort involving college and university students with a variety of disabilities in Canada. She is also an associate professor of psychiatry at McGill and an authority on sleep disorders.



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SCIENCE

EUGENE ELKIN, BSc'50, published his second novel, *The Pharmacist*, which explores the changes in medicine and pharmacy that the protagonist has witnessed over the course of his 60-year career. His previous novel, *The Friendship*, followed the journey of two Montrealers, one French and the other Jewish, through their service with the Black Watch Regiment during the Second World War and beyond.

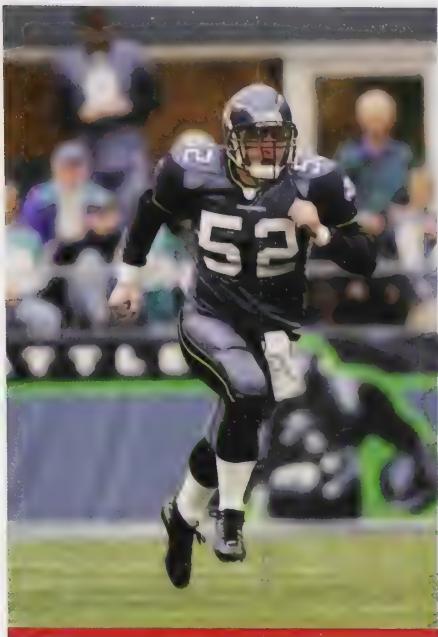
NED GOODMAN, BSc'60, the chancellor of Brock University and the founder of Dundee Corporation, was named a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to Canada's investment industry and for his philanthropic support for higher education, culture and health care.

MARILYN BOWMAN, MSc(A)'65, PhD'72, is the author of *James Legge and the Chinese Classics* (Friesen Press). The book focuses on Legge, a brilliant Scots scholar who was the first to translate the Chinese classics into a European language. He lived in Hong Kong during the early colonial period, experiencing its two opium wars and the Taiping Rebellion. Marilyn is an emerita professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University.

CHRISTINA CHOW, BSc'70, and **CLEMENT LEUNG**, BSc'72, are the co-authors of *Reshaping Universities for Survival in the 21st Century: New Opportunities and Paradigms*. The book examines the challenges facing universities today, including global competition, the rise of rankings and disruptive technology. She is a principal advisor at the College of Science, Engineering and Health at Australia's RMIT University, while he is a professor of computer science at Hong Kong Baptist University.

DAVID NETTLESHIP, PhD'70 is the editor-in-chief of *Voyage of Discovery* (Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association). The book, published in 2014, is an important reference source for the marine sciences and summarizes research conducted by the BIO-Oceans Association. David spent 25 years as the head of the CWS Seabird unit at the BIO-Oceans Association, where, post-retirement, he continues to serve as president and director.

SUZANNE KINGSMILL, BSc'78, recently published *Crazy Dead* (Dundurn Press), the latest in a series of murder mystery novels featuring zool- ogy professor Cordi O'Callaghan. In the new book, O'Callaghan is admitted to a psychiatric ward where she must try to solve a very curious murder. *The Globe and Mail* described the book as "a first- rate story with an engaging heroine."



SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

JEAN-PHILIPPE DARCHE, BSc'97, was recently inducted into the Quebec Sports Hall of Fame. As a middle linebacker for the McGill Redmen, he won the Russ Jackson Award in 1998 as the Canadian university football player who best combines athletics with academics and community service. He turned pro the following year with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, then moved on to the NFL, where he was a long snapper for the Seattle Seahawks and Kansas City Chiefs. He took part in the 2006 Super Bowl.

GEORGE SAPOUNIDIS, BSc'80, MSc'83, is a Greek-Canadian singer and songwriter who took early retirement from his career at Statistics Canada in 2012 to focus on his music. Performing as Chairman George, he has been twice nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award, has appeared at international festivals across China, and was the subject of a documentary film in 2005 that won awards at the AFI/Silverdocs and at the Guangzhou Documentary Festival.

YVES SIROIS, PhD'88, a senior scientist at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in France and a key player in the successful international effort to uncover the Higgs boson particle, was made a knight of the Ordre national du Québec.

GERALD PANNETON, MSc'91, became the new president and chief executive officer of NewCastle Gold Ltd. in August. He was the founder of Detour Gold Corporation, which he led as president and CEO from 2006 to 2013.

LEANNE JABLONSKI, PhD'97, received the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CSWF) Alumni Award in May. A scientist, educator and pastoral minister, she directs the 100-acre Marianist Environmental Education Center, which focuses on ecological restoration through science and service-learning. She is also scholar-in-residence for faith and environment at the University of Dayton's Hanley Sustainability Institute. An avid science fair participant since grade 5, she attended four CSWFs during the seventies.

NADIA HARDY, MSc'05, is Concordia University's new vice-provost of faculty relations. She is the former chair of Concordia's Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

ERIKA MITKUS, BSc'12, was chosen by the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation as a member of its 2016 cohort of teaching fellows. The program offers different forms of support, including mentoring and grants for teaching materials, to early-career high school math and science teachers. Erika began her first year as a teacher at the Sanford School in Hockessin, Delaware this fall.

JACK HARNEY, BSc'16, is one of the 60 winners of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation's WW Georgia Teaching Fellowships for 2016. The program selects individuals with strong backgrounds in the STEM fields and prepares them to teach in high-need secondary schools.

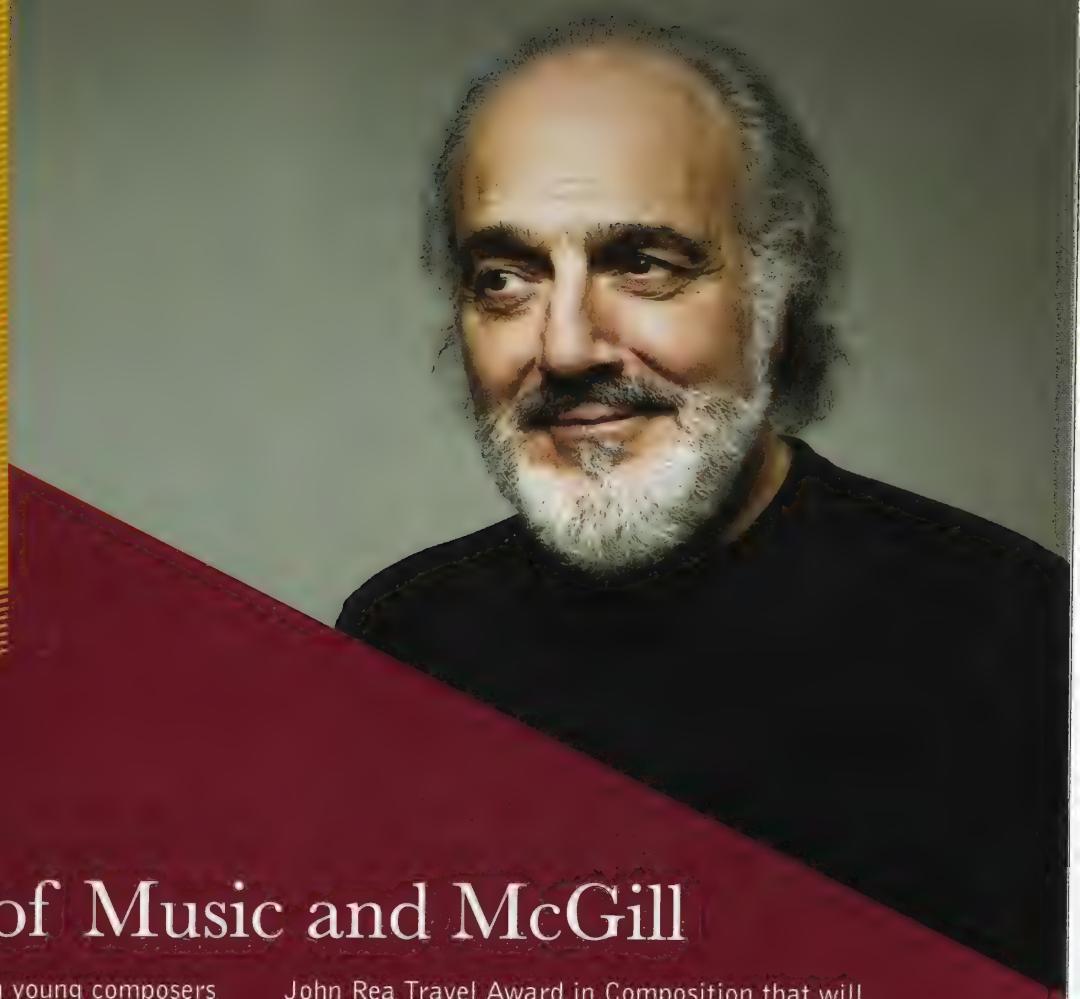
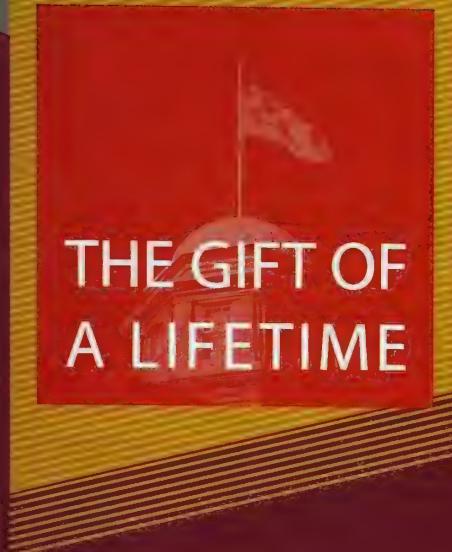
SOCIAL WORK

MIRIAM GREEN, BA'58, MSW'60, is the president of the board for the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex. She was one of the three recipients of the Quebec Community Groups Network's 2016 Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award. She was recognized for playing a pivotal role in saving Montreal's Benny Farm low-cost housing project as a not-for-profit community venture.

PETER MACDOUGALL, MSW'98, is Canada's new ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He was the director of operations of the Privy Council Office's Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat from 2011 to 2015, when he became the assistant secretary to the cabinet for foreign and defence policy.

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For the Love of Music and McGill

For more than four decades, aspiring young composers have set their sights on studying at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, under the guidance and mentorship of the award-winning composer, Professor John Rea. Many of them have gone on to forge noteworthy careers around the world.

Rea arrived at McGill in 1973, in the midst of his PhD studies at Princeton. Since then he has pursued a triple career as a composer, a concert producer, and a professor. In 1986, he assumed an even larger role in shaping the Schulich School of Music, when he was named Dean, a position he held until 1991. "During those five years, my goal was to open the School's door to the world, and to promote the achievements of our students," he recalls with pride.

Rea harbours a deep affection for the University. "McGill has been perhaps the greatest single important event in my life," he said. His association with McGill runs in the family; his wife, Lina Uberti, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History in 1998, while his daughter, Beatrice, graduated in 2012 with a BA in French and Italian Studies.

As a loyal donor who has supported McGill and its students since 1974, Rea recently established the

John Rea Travel Award in Composition that will enable music students who are studying composition to visit noteworthy concert halls, listen to cutting-edge compositions at festivals, attend a summer course at another university, or even work at a music research centre to broaden their perspective.

"Young music scholars, particularly composers, need to see the world and meet people. Such experiences enrich their studies and help them progress towards their goals," says Rea.

In addition to this thoughtful and generous gift, Rea has made a provision to provide future support for music students, through a planned gift, in which McGill will be the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. "At this point, I wanted to do something a little more significant."

"Over the course of my long career as a professor and a Dean, I have had the good fortune to interact with wonderfully talented, imaginative, creative and dynamic young music scholars, researchers and artists," says Rea. "I am pleased to share with students what the University offered me, and it is gratifying to know that this support will continue into the future."



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1930s

PAUL BASSINOR, MA'35,
at Newton, Mass., on June 9, 2016.

DAVID SHUGAR, BSc'36, PhD'40,
at Warsaw, Poland, on October 31, 2015.

NATHAN KAUFMAN, BSc'37, MDCM'41,
at Toronto, on May 11, 2016.

ROBERT BARRY ELLIOTT, BEng'39,
on November 15, 2015.

1940s

HENRY W. "PAT" PATTERSON, BA'40,
at Toronto, on November 17, 2016.

HOMER M. BRADY, BA'41,
at Ottawa, on December 30, 2016.

ANNE M. (BUNTY) PATRICK, BA'41,
at Ottawa, on July 11, 2016.

JOHN B. FRIEDLANDER, BA'41, MA'46,
at Mississauga, Ont., on December 16, 2016.

LYDIA A. DRURY, BA'42,
at Montreal, on August 10, 2016.

JOHN W. WIGGETT, BEng'42,
on July 23, 2016.

CHARLOTTE FERENCZ, BSc'44, MDCM'45,
DipPediatrics'51, at Catonsville, Md.,
on September 27, 2016.

ROSS E. HOWIE, BEng'44,
at St-Sébastien, Que., on July 17, 2016.

MIRIAM BERGER, DipSW'45,
at Montreal, on November 29, 2016.

JOAN K. JACKSON, BA'45, MA'47,
at Bethany, Conn., on August 14, 2016.

PHYLLIS E. M. BROWN, BLS'46, MLS'67,
at Cornwall, Ont., on October 29, 2016.

W. DAVID PARSONS, BSc'46, MDCM'51,
at St. John's, Nfld., on April 12, 2016.

HUGH WARBURTON, BA'46,
at Wood Islands, PEI, on May 31, 2016.

ROLAND GREENBANK, BSc(Agr)'47, DipEd'56,
at Beaconsfield, Que., on November 11, 2016.

GEORGE L. FORTIER, BSc'48, MDCM'52,
at Kingston, Ont., on October 18, 2016.

JOHN DONALD MCQUAT, BSc'48,
at Pointe-Claire, Que., on October 23, 2015.

NEIDA OGDEN-DIMEO, MDCM'48,
at Providence, R.I., on August 4, 2016.

AUDREY SCHOLES, BA'48,
at Kingston, Ont., on November 19, 2016.

JEAN (BERKINSHAW) SHAW, BA'48,
at Saanichton, B.C., on August 13, 2016.

CONSTANTINE VITOU, BSc'48, MDCM'50,
on September 12, 2016.

RALPH C. BURGESS, BSc(Agr)'49, MSc'52,
at Toronto, on December 2, 2016.

KNUT GROTTEROD, BEng'49,
at Fredericton, N.B., on August 25, 2016.

DONALD H. JOLLY, MDCM'49,
at Palo Alto, Calif., on April 11, 2016.

JOAN ELIZABETH (HAMILTON) STEWART,
BSc(HEc)'49, at Ottawa, on December 9, 2010.

1950s

WILLIAM C. BOSWELL, BA'50, MA'52, MEd'75,
at Montreal, on July 8, 2016.

DONALD W. SEAL, BA'50, BCL'54,
at Montreal, on October 12, 2016.

F. ALVIN STEWART, BSc(Agr)'50,
at Ottawa, on September 26, 2016.

M. HUGH WALSH, BEng'50,
at Deep River, Ont., on October 3, 2016.

ELAINE EVANS, DipEd'51,
at Sherbrooke, Que., on August 12, 2016.

DONALD U. FINDLAY, BEng'51,
at Pointe-Claire, Que., on September 2, 2016.

ALEXANDER GREENSPOON, BEng'51,
at Orlando, Fla., on June 23, 2016.

DAVID ALAN RACKOW, MEng'51,
at Ottawa, on April 8, 2016.

RAYMOND M. ROWAT, BA'51, BCL'54,
at Montreal, on September 11, 2016.



MANNY BATSHAW, BA'37, DipSW'38, LLD'98, was a chief architect of Quebec's approach to child protection. When stories emerged about troubling levels of abuse in Quebec group homes, Batshaw was appointed to head a commission that called for more foster homes, better training for child-care workers and a more humane overall approach. Many of those recommendations were enshrined in Quebec's Youth Protection Act and Batshaw's major influence was recognized in 1992 when four child-protection groups were merged and named Batshaw Youth and Family Services. He died on July 18, 2016.



While **LEONARD COHEN**, BA'55, DLitt'92, won praise and prizes for his work as a poet and novelist, it was as a singer-songwriter that he became world famous. He was a songwriter's songwriter. Kris Kristofferson once declared that he wanted the opening lines to Cohen's "Bird on a Wire" engraved on his tombstone, while Nick Cave described Cohen as "the greatest songwriter of them all." Over the course of his remarkable career, Cohen was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Prix du Québec and many other honours. He died in Los Angeles on November 7, 2016.

CHARLES S. ALEXANDER, BA'52, BCL'59, on November 18, 2016.

MIRIAM (BIDNER) PINCHUK, DipEd'52, on August 6, 2016.

RAYMOND DENSON, BSc'52, MDCM'56, at Toronto, on August 16, 2016.

CLARENCE E. JAMES, BSc'52, MDCM'56, at Bermuda, on April 16, 2016.

WILLIAM M. JONES, BSc'52, MDCM'54, at London, Ont., on January 13, 2016.

PETER G. KINDERSLEY, BEng'52, at Queensbury, N.Y., on November 8, 2016.

KEITH LAIDLEY, BA'52, BCL'55, at Montreal, on February 21, 2016.

GEORGE ARMAND POIRIER, BCom'52, at Brockville, Ont., on March 23, 2016.

CHARLES G. ROGERS, BSc(Agr)'52, MSc'54, at Nepean, Ont., on October 7, 2016.

JOHN F. ANDERSON, BD'53, at Meaford, Ont., on June 2, 2016.

ELINOR M. BARTLETT, BA'53, BLS'59, at Montreal, on September 30, 2016.

J. PETER CHAPLIN, BSc(Agr)'53, at Norwich, N.Y., on July 12, 2016.

FREDERICK GEISERT, MDCM'53, at Bainbridge Island, Wash., on June 2, 2016.

YVONNE IMBLEAU, MDCM'53, at Salisbury, Conn., on August 10, 2016.

IRENE T. (O'BRIEN) JACKSON, CertNurs'53, at Ottawa, on October 8, 2016.

WILLIAM I. MILLER, BCL'53, at Montreal, on July 19, 2016.

JEAN NICOLAS PERRAULT, BSc'53, at Sainte-Adèle, Que., on July 14, 2016.

THEODORE H. POLISUK, BA'53, BCL'56, at Montreal, on July 16, 2016.

KENNETH E. BOONE, BEng'54, at West Byfleet, England, on September 12, 2016.

WILLIAM "BILL" DALRYMPLE, BEng'54, at Corpus Christi, Tex., on September 19, 2016.

FRANCIS IVOR GONSALVES, BSc'54, at Scarborough, Ont., on November 3, 2016.

J. WILLIAM IBBOTT, MDCM'54, at Vancouver, B.C., on May 26, 2016.

MARTHA (FORTIER) KYTE, DipED'54, at Rawdon, Que., on September 30, 2016.

GORDON E. PIRIE, MDCM'54, at Vancouver, B.C., on December 1, 2016.

H. LADDIE SCHNAIBERG, BA'54, BCL'57, on December 4, 2015.

E. ALVIN SEAMAN, BEng'54, on March 27, 2016.

LLOYD SLAVEN, BEng'54, DipMan'70, at Hamilton, Ont., on December 5, 2016.

LARRY E. THORNTON, MDCM'54, on October 19, 2016.

BRIAN W. FAUGHNAN, BEng'55, on August 1, 2016.

GEORGE W. FOSTER, BEng'55, at Cornwall, Ont., on September 23, 2016.

PETER G. GLOCKNER, BEng'55, at Calgary, Alta., on November 5, 2016.

DIANA MCKAY, BA'55, at Victoria, B.C., on November 9, 2016.

RODERICK A. MORRISON, BEng'55, on September 22, 2016.

C. JAIME ROBERTON, BSc'55, on October 16, 2016.

MARGARET (STEVENSON) SMITH, DipEd'55, at Welland, Ont., on July 12, 2016.

ROBERT T. STEWART, BCom'55, at Vancouver, B.C., on July 5, 2016.

GORDON DANBY, PhD'56, at Stony Brook, N.Y., on August 2, 2016.

DON W. BOYER, MDCM'56, at Indianapolis, Ind., on November 5, 2016.

HILLAR KURLENTS, BEng'56, at Montreal, on July 3, 2016.

WILLIAM "BILL" P. MCKEOWN, BCom'56, on November 8, 2016.

MAX W. BRACHVOGEL, MDCM'57, at Tacoma, Wash., on July 14, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

ABIGAIL P. FEARON, BA'57, on November 30, 2016.

JANET (LEDAIN) HAMMOND, BA'57, at North Haven, Conn., on September 8, 2016.

NORMAN L. MALUS, BA'57, BCL'60, at Montreal, on September 20, 2016.

ARTHUR W. FLYNN, BEng'58, at London, Ont., on July 25, 2016.

ARTHUR L. MAYHEW, BSc'58, at Hudson Heights, Que., on July 26, 2016.

JERRY Z. FINKLESTEIN, BSc'59, MDCM'63, at Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., on December 10, 2016.

1960s

RUTH ATTO, DipNursT&S'60, at Sherbrooke, Que., on May 19, 2016.

PIERRE M. BRITT, BEng'60, DipMan'74, at Montreal, on November 14, 2016.

GORDON H. GILMORE, BSc'60, DipMan'65, MBA'66, at Burlington, Ont., on February 23, 2016.

MICHAEL CHISNALL HAMPSON, MSc'60, at St. John's, Nfld., on May 1, 2016.

ARTHUR J. BIRCHENOUGH, BEng'61, in Oakville, Ont., on September 11, 2016.

CYNTHIA CALDWELL, BA'61, MA'67, at Montreal, on November 30, 2016.

JULIAN STEPHEN MELZACK, BA'61, MA'64, at Oxfordshire, England, on January 5, 2016.

STEVEN D. SILVER, BCom'61, on August 16, 2016.

SUSAN VAN ALSTYNE, BLS'61, at Edmonton, Alta., on June 25, 2016.

CHARLES EDWARD "TED" REEVE, MDCM'62, at Nanaimo, B.C., on August 1, 2016.

JAMES M. WEIFFENBACH, MA'62, PhD'64, at Bethesda, Md., on August 22, 2016.

MOIRA HAYES, BA'63, at Ottawa, on August 31, 2016.



As the CEO and chairman for 3M from 1991 to 2001, **LIVIO "DESI" DESIMONE**, BEng'57, DSc'94, presided over the company responsible for such iconic products as Scotch tape and Post-it notes. "Desi was a bold leader who courageously guided 3M through the turbulent economic decade of the nineties," said current 3M CEO Inge Thulin. 3M revenue grew by 24 per cent under his leadership. DeSimone promoted investments in technology and was one of the first corporate leaders in the U.S. to commit to major environmental initiatives. He died on January 17, 2017.

HELEN P. MALMO, MSc(A)'63, at Montreal, on July 12, 2016.

LINDA GRACE MCKELLAR, DipPE'63, at Ontario, on September 20, 2016.

J. FRASER MARTIN, BCL'64, at Hudson, Que., on November 26, 2016.

J.S. OGUNTOYINBO, MSc'64, at Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, on February 5, 2016.

HAROLD J. KATZIN, BArch'65, at Toronto, on October 14, 2016.

STEN E. FERSING, DDS'66, at Vermont, on August 22, 2015.

FRANK P. MORSE, MDCM'66, on September 18, 2016.

BRENT N. J. RABEY, BEng'66, MBA'68, at Toronto, on June 25, 2016.

GERALD L. W. WEBB, MEng'66, PhD'69, at Winnipeg, Man., on August 27, 2016.

PERCY DAVID SPILBERG, BA'67, MA'70, at Montreal, on September 4, 2016.

MARTA BLOM, BSc'69, at Montreal, on July 29, 2016.

1970s

MICHELE GAGNON-BURGESS, BSc(FSc)'71, at Parksville, B.C., on July 17, 2016.

KENDRITH AMELIA BENTLEY, BScN'71, at Calgary, Alta., on November 16, 2016.

DONNA BARMISH-GOLOFF, BA'72, DipEd'73, MA'88, at Montreal, on August 17, 2016.

SHERRY (LANDE) FEIFER, BPhysTher'72, BSc(PT)'77, at Montreal, on August 4, 2016.

F. GRAHAM SOMMER, MDCM'72, at Stanford, Calif., on October 2, 2016.

ELDA FREDETTE, MED'72, at Oakville, Ont., on October 22, 2016.

ALAIN ADENOT, MBA'74, at Boucherville, Que., on May 23, 2016.

KIRK THOMPSON, MBA'74, at Ottawa, on December 8, 2016.

DONNA LEE BALKAN, BA'75, at Dartmouth, N.S., on December 3, 2016.

ROBERT FULLARTON, BSc(Agr)'75, at Markham, Ont., on November 21, 2016.

RICHARD J. MARCEAU, BEng'78, PhD'93, at Conception Bay South, Nfld., on September 26, 2016.

LUCIA PERILLO, BSc(Agr)'79, at Olympia, Wash., on October 16, 2016.



WARREN ALLMAND, BCL'57, was a longtime politician widely celebrated for his decency and dedication. He served as MP for the Montreal riding of NDG for 32 years. He held three different cabinet positions and as Canada's solicitor general, brought an end to capital punishment. Known for his commitment to social justice

issues, he also served as president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development and as a Montreal municipal councilor. "When we think of what citizenship is all about, Warren was a model citizen," said his friend, emeritus professor of law Irwin Cotler, BA'61, BCL'64. Allmand died in Montreal on December 7, 2016.

1980s

LYNN PLAICE, BA'80, DipTr(F-E)'87, at Montreal, on September 28, 2016.

DARRELL A. BROUGHTON, BSc(Arch)'82, on September 5, 2016.

BARBARA GROGAN, BA'82, at London, Ont., on October 14, 2016.

WILLIAM GREGORY JARVIS, BEng'83, at Ottawa, on October 7, 2016.

ROBERT J. LOUGH, MBA'84, at Toronto, on November 2, 2016.

FACULTY/STAFF/GOVERNORS

JOHN C. BAILAR, former chair, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, at Mitchellville, Md., on September 6, 2016.

JOHN C. BECK, BSc'45, MDCM'47, MSc'51, DSc'94, former chair of the Department of Medicine, at Perth, Australia, on September 29, 2016.

BRUNO GEORG BENFEY, retired faculty member, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, at Mississauga, Ont., on October 14, 2016.

VALENTIN "VALYA" BOSS, emeritus professor of history, at Montreal, on November 29, 2015.

MARITA BOULLATA, MLS'79, former librarian, Faculty of Education, at Montreal, on August 15, 2016.

BERNARDO DUBROVSKY, faculty member, Department of Psychiatry, at Montreal, on October 7, 2016.

JANET LOUISE FINLAYSON, BSc(HEc)'59, BLS'65, Macdonald Campus librarian, on December 16, 2016.

SHEILA HORN BISAILLON, BSc'53, physician and hospital administrator, Faculty of Medicine, at Montreal, on November 18, 2016.

RONALD G. JONES, DDS'56, former faculty member, Faculty of Dentistry, at Montreal, on October 9, 2016.

NORMAN KALANT, PhD'54, former director of research, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, at North York, Ont., on August 14, 2016.

BERNIE GORDON LEASK, multimedia technician, Multimedia Services, at Montreal, on August 10, 2016.

JAN LUNDGREN, retired professor, Department of Geography, on June 29, 2016.

ALASTAIR MCKINNON, BD'53, emeritus professor of philosophy, at Toronto, on November 6, 2016.

ROBERT "ROBIN" MCLEOD, BSc'58, MDCM'62, faculty member, Department of Surgery, at Pointe-Claire, Que., on August 19, 2016.

KLAUS MINDE, DipPsych'65, former chair of the Department of Psychiatry, at Montreal, on July 6, 2016.

MARY MOONEY, PhD'95, former administrator, McGill Sports Medical Clinic, at London, Ont., on August 27, 2016.

MARTIN PUHVEL, BA'53, MA'54, emeritus professor of English, on December 7, 2016.

JOHN B. RICHARDSON, BSc'58, MDCM'62, PhD'71, former chair, Department of Pathology, at Westmount, Que., on October 15, 2016.

ALLAN SHERWIN, BSc'53, MDCM'57, PhD'65, professor emeritus, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, at Westmount, Que., on October 14, 2016.

HERBERT B. SIBLIN, BCom'50, governor emeritus, former president, Jewish General Hospital, at Montreal, on July 14, 2016.

LEON D. SOLOMON, BSc'58, associate professor of ophthalmology, at Westmount, Que., on July 3, 2016.

HOWARD STUTT, DipEd'42, emeritus professor of education, at Ottawa, on January 2, 2017.

BERNARD TURGEON, former director, Opera McGill, at Victoria, B.C., on October 25, 2016.

ANNETTE WERK, retired associate professor, School of Social Work, at Ottawa, on October 19, 2016.

V. MICHAEL WHITEHEAD, MDCM'59, former Jack Cole Professor in Pediatric Oncology, at Knowlton, Que., on September 18, 2016.

Errata

In our last issue, Professor Peter Horn Solomon's year of death was incorrectly listed as 2016. He died in 2015. We regret the error.

Dr. Norman F. White wrote in to say "I was surprised to be apprised of my demise" in our last issue.

We are grateful to Dr. White for his sense of humour — and happy to have been proven wrong.

A COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

On September 16, McGill's First People's House hosted its 15th annual powwow on the lower field of the downtown campus. The popular event featured hoop dancing, Inuit throat singing and Métis jigging. A week later, McGill launched the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education. Provost Christopher Manfredi said the task force will "consider initiatives that will deepen the University's commitment to integrating Indigenous perspectives and experiences in all facets of McGill's academic mission." The task force's final report will be issued on June 1, 2017.

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